

Assistant Attorney General
James M. McInerney

April 1, 1952

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Director, FBI
UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
HARRY T. MOORE, ET AL
VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

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One copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated March 24, 1952, at Miami is attached.

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 28, 1952, at Miami, beginning on Page 99 which reflects information concerning Simon Smith Manning, a close associate of suspect Earl Brooklyn. You will note that Manning was employed at the Orlando Air Force Base, Orlando, Florida, in which connection he executed Form No. 57 (application for Federal employment-appointment affidavit) on January 3, 1951, at which time he claims he had never been convicted of a crime, a penalty of which was in excess of a twenty-five dollar fine or belonged to any organization which advocated the overthrow of the U. S. Government and/or "was seeking by force and violence to deny other persons their rights under the Constitution of the United States."

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In a signed statement set forth on Page 82 of the attached report, Manning admits a conviction for grand larceny and membership in the Ku Klux Klan. It is requested that you advise whether Manning has violated Section 80, Title 18, U. S. Code, in that he has made false statements in his application for employment and if he has, the action you contemplate taking in this regard.

Investigation in this case has developed a number of Ku Klux Klan members as logical suspects and considerable inquiries are being made in regard to Klan activities in the Orlando, Florida area. There are indications that other Klan members may possibly have violated Section 80, Title 18 as did Manning. In the event you are of the opinion prosecution of Manning and others may be entertained, additional investigation along these lines will be conducted to develop other similar violations by Klan members.

An early reply is desired.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-17-82 BY [redacted]

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Enclosure
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MIAMI

FILE NO.

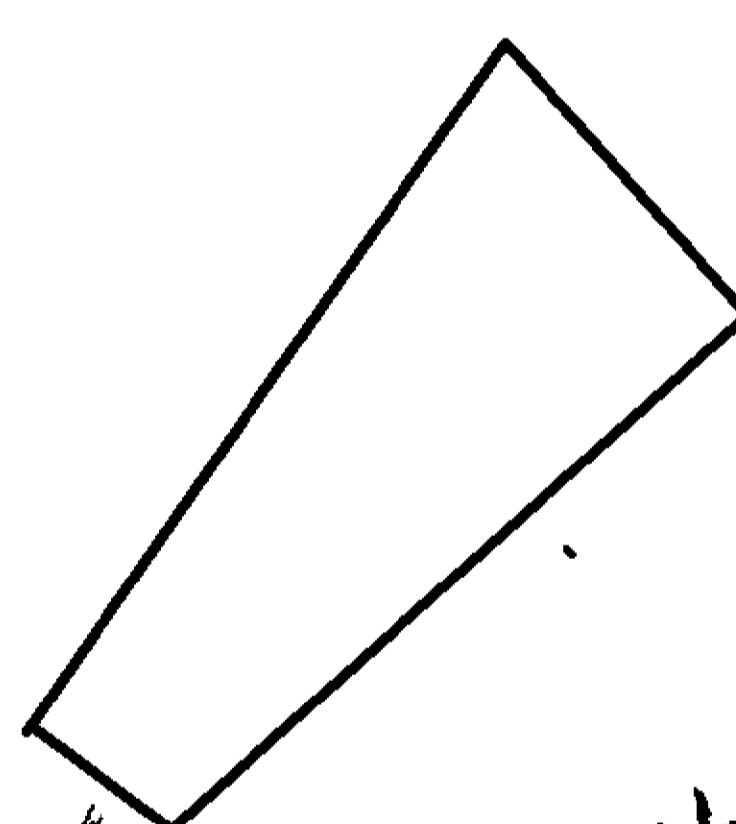
REPORT MADE AT MIAMI	DATE WHEN MADE 3/24/52	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2-5 to 3-21-52	REPORT MADE BY [Redacted] TEM:egh
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; HARRY T. MOORE, HARRIETT MOORE (deceased) - VICTIMS		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Further interviews of informant, fellow-Klansmen and relative of suspect BROOKLYN has disclosed little or no additional information of value. Investigation at all motels, hotels and trailer camps in vicinity of Mims, Fla. disclosed no information as to any suspicious individuals being there at Christmas or period immediately preceding. Inquiries, Titusville Airport, disclosed no planes landed there Christmas Day, although one light-type plane carrying two unidentified men landed at Allenhurst, 20 miles northeast of Mims, on 12-25-51, at approximately 1:00 P.M. and departed 2:00 P.M. On 2-6-50, LUTHER COLEMAN, negro janitor, Winter Garden, Florida, forcibly taken from bank entrance to parked car by white men and attempt made to abduct him. He was beaten and shot fired at him. Investigation to date has not identified assailants.

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Room 5716
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DATE 11-19-82 BY SP4/ela/ahr

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *R.A. Wall Jr.* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

- 3 - BUREAUS (of this report)
- 1 - USA, Tampa
- 2 - Savannah (44-262)
- 1 - New York (44-180)(info)
- 3 - Miami (44-270)

44-4118-242

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INDEXED - 110

104-3-1955

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16-61300-1 U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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I. INVESTIGATION REGARDING SUSPECT EARL J. BROOKLYN

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on February 28, 1952, at Apopka, Florida.

BASIS: Confidential Informant T-1 recontacted in order to obtain specific information concerning the activities of [redacted] insofar as they relate to the period of time when [redacted] was Exalted Cyclops and when BILL BOGAR was Exalted Cyclops of the Association of Georgia Klans, Apopka Klavern. Information was sought to corroborate the allegation that EARL J. BROOKLYN exhibited the floor plans of MOORE's house after a Klan meeting.

↓ Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that [redacted] (not [redacted] as previously reported) first came to the Apopka area in the winter of 1946 and 1947, stayed a few months and then returned north. He brought his trailer with him for permanent residence in Florida in the winter of 1947 and 1948. [redacted] started building a home on Rock Springs Road outside Apopka in June or July, 1948. The informant said [redacted] told him [redacted] named [redacted] who was building his house approached him [redacted] to join the Association of Georgia Klans Klavern at Apopka. At the time [redacted] Joe's Garage and Filling Station at Plymouth, Florida, was Exalted Cyclops.

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Informant was specifically questioned concerning [redacted] knowledge of the operation of the Klan while he was a member, particularly during that period of time when [redacted] was Exalted Cyclops in 1949 and BILL BOGAR succeeded him in 1950. An effort was made to obtain if possible any verification of the allegation that EARL BROOKLYN exhibited the floor plans of HARRY T. MOORE's house after an Apopka Association of Georgia Klans meeting sometime in 1949 or 1950.

When questioned about the existence of terrorist activities in the Klan, T-1 commented that there might have been talk before or after meetings about beatings or "treatments" to be administered but certainly

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no talk was had during meetings while BILL BOGAR and [redacted] were Exalted Cyclops because those two controlled the meeting and did not permit such discussions.

The informant related that a Klansman named [redacted] who was allegedly from New Jersey or New York and lived on Altamonte Springs Road once threatened to throw a fire bomb at [redacted] who called him down on this threat. [redacted] used to hang out with the [redacted] clique, is described as a [redacted] who was about [redacted] pounds and a [redacted] by trade.

When questioned about the identity of a [redacted] T-1 stated there was a person with a name similar to [redacted] who was a fisherman near Sanford who was supposed to be a relative of the BROOKLYNS. He suggested [redacted] would know the relationship of these people. [redacted] is the [redacted] of [redacted] who is [redacted] for some large company, and lives outside Orlando near the stock market.

Confidential Informant T-1 made the following observations concerning persons mentioned:

[redacted] was a member of a Klan in Apopka with him the past two years but quit when he found out he was being used as a tool by Klan members.

[redacted] is the most dangerous man in Apopka and could be involved in any type of stick-up.

[redacted] is responsible for the shooting of [redacted]. Informant could not furnish information to substantiate this statement.

[redacted] is a [redacted] of the Apopka Police Department and a member of the Apopka Klan.

F. E. LOOMIS, undertaker at Winter Garden, is a very good friend of the BROOKLYN boys, EARL and [redacted].

There was no particular ill feeling between EARL BROOKLYN and BILL BOGAR to the informant's knowledge.

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The cowboy, CURLY BELVIN, was denied admittance to the Apopka meeting once or twice despite the fact that invariably someone at the meeting vouched for him. He was refused admittance because he did not have his card with him.

The informant stated that at one time [redacted] came to the Apopka meeting place with two other individuals in a car. [redacted] asked to see [redacted] and BILL BOGAR who was then Exalted Cyclops. At the time BOGAR was not present and because he had left instructions that none of these Klansmen from other Klaverns could be admitted to an Apopka meeting, [redacted] chased them off the grounds and told them not to come back. [redacted] are believed to be very close associates, both handling fertilizer. It was stated that [redacted] who is employed at the Winter Garden Citrus Growers Exchange steals fertilizer from his employer and uses [redacted] as his outlet.

It was shortly before this time that the internal trouble developed in the Apopka Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans where [redacted] and the others were banished or suspended through the efforts of BILL BOGAR. Subsequently [redacted] was reinstated by [redacted] in what was characterized as a "double-cross". It was about the middle of 1950, according to T-1, that BILL HENDRIX of the Southern Knights visited the Apopka Association of Georgia Klans Klavern after hearing of the friction within the Klavern. In the middle of the summer of 1950 the Apopka Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans transferred to the Southern Knights. Thereafter EARL BROOKLYN and others in the Association of Georgia Klans stopped visiting the Apopka meetings.

The officers of the Association of Georgia Klans Klavern, Apopka, remained in office under the Southern Knights charter through 1950. However, a clique headed by [redacted] for whom T-1 has very little regard, and including [redacted] arranged for an election in January, 1951, at which time [redacted] was elected Exalted Cyclops. [redacted] was reelected Exalted Cyclops in July, 1951, according to the informant. Informant said it was about this time or shortly before July, 1951, that BILL BOGAR and [redacted] ceased to have any affiliation with the Klan.

The informant believes that both EARL [redacted] BROOKLYN avoided [redacted] because they knew he had no use for persons of their caliber. It was the practice of the BROOKLYNS, together with CURLY BELVIN to visit the Apopka Klavern. Informant was unable to recall exactly when they visited but could only furnish the following information in some chronological order.

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Concerning [] the informant believes he ceased to have any affiliation with the Klan at the end of his term as Exalted Cyclops.

The informant recalled that early during [] term as Exalted Cyclops EARL [] BROOKLYN had attempted to obtain a separate charter from Dr. SAMUEL GREEN, the Imperial Wizard at Atlanta, for an Orlando Klavern, but were refused because Dr. GREEN opposed "rough stuff" in the Klan. Dr. GREEN died while [] was still Exalted Cyclops and SAM ROPER took over as Imperial Wizard. After ROPER became Imperial Wizard he gave a charter in Orlando to a group headed by the BROOKLYNs. Prior to that time a Winter Garden group had obtained an Association of Georgia Klans charter. There was considerable trouble over the ownership and operation of the clubhouse of the Klan located on Route 50, the new Winter Garden Road, five miles west of Orlando. He believes EARL BROOKLYN was involved in a session when the furniture in the clubhouse was wrecked and the American flag torn.

Informant said he was present when [] who was affiliated with the CIO and had a small group of railroad men during the war organized as a wildcat Klan [] BILL BOGAR and [] met with SAM ROPER, the Imperial Wizard, when ROPER paid a visit to the Orlando area early in the summer of 1949. It was the opinion of the informant that [] and EARL BROOKLYN are ardent supporters of [] who was Grand Dragon of the Association of Georgia Klans.

He said he was also present when EARL BROOKLYN visited the Apopka Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans on three or four occasions while [] was Exalted Cyclops. At no time while [] was Exalted Cyclops or while BILL BOGAR was Exalted Cyclops of the Association of Georgia Klans did the informant receive any information concerning the alleged exhibition of floor plans of HARRY MOORE's home to any Klansman after an Apopka Klan meeting. The informant said he knew nothing of such alleged floor plans and never heard them discussed. He further stated he was not in possession of any papers relating to the Klan.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and FRANK F. MEECH on March 6, 1952, at Sanford, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed inasmuch as he is alleged to have been a close associate of suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN.

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[redacted] (previously reported in this case as [redacted] who resides on [redacted] leading from Sanford to Orlando, Florida, opposite the [redacted] [redacted] furnished the following information.

He is a [redacted] mainly engaged in [redacted] [redacted] furnished by [redacted] in the Sanford area. He was a member of the old Ku Klux Klan which he joined about sixteen years ago and maintained his membership and activity in the Klan for the succeeding years except for a period of about three years toward the end of the existence of the Florida Klan. He rejoined the Klan while [redacted] was Exalted Cyclops of the Orlando Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans (after TILLMAN H. BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops). He claimed he has had nothing to do with EARL J. BROOKLYN for the past two years although for many years prior to that time he and BROOKLYN were very close friends and hunted and fished together.

He stated he and the BROOKLYN boys come from Ocoee and grew up together and he went to school with [redacted] who is his age. He insisted that he does not know the reason why EARL BROOKLYN no longer speaks to him except that EARL is a very moody person who will suddenly take a dislike to a person or become angry with them for some insignificant reason and refuse to have anything to do with the person or discuss any disagreement. He readily admitted that on occasions he risks the wrath of EARL BROOKLYN when EARL would cease to talk to him and would indicate he was angry with him he would ask EARL the reason for his attitude, realizing that he himself might receive a "trimming". He described EARL BROOKLYN as a man who was a rowdy type with violent likes and dislikes, who drank very heavily

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prior to his stomach operation two or three years ago and was "all man", weighing about 220 pounds and was extremely strong and vigorous.

[redacted] insisted he never heard EARL BROOKLYN discuss HARRY MOORE and that he himself just knew the NAACP existed. He claimed he knew nothing of the killing of MOORE, has no information that might have any bearing on this case and, in fact, never heard of the alleged committee formed by the Orlando Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans to investigate this case in order to free the Klan of suspicion (as stated previously by JAMES B. JOHNSON). He admitted knowing JOHNSON and stated he has been attending the Orlando Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans regularly.

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He stated he never visited a meeting of the Apopka Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans but at one time while [redacted] was Exalted Cyclops of the Orlando Klavern [redacted] attended a party. He never heard of the floor plans of MOORE's house being in existence and was never approached by BROOKLYN in that regard.

[redacted] claimed EARL BROOKLYN is afraid of the law and based his belief on the following incident. While he and EARL were engaged in some illegal fishing on a lake, having valuable equipment ready to be set out to catch fish, BROOKLYN told him that if any game warden approached them he, BROOKLYN, would not let him have any of their equipment and would scare him off. Shortly thereafter there was a rustle as of a person approaching through the woods. Although the person was not a game warden or anyone interested in their activities, EARL BROOKLYN fled without waiting to find out who it was and without worrying about the boat, equipment or [redacted]. He ran or walked all the way home, leaving [redacted] to take care of the boat and equipment and the car.

When questioned as to his attitude and that of BROOKLYN toward negroes he said they were not against equal facilities for negroes and did not believe in doing anything illegal as far as negroes were concerned. He insisted he had never been engaged in terrorist activities against negroes or anyone else. He further denied going to Groveland at the time of the Groveland Rape Case incidents.

In regard to "CURLY" BELVIN, his past and present actions and the possibility that [redacted] made a trip to Groveland with BELVIN, he recalled that CURLY BELVIN used to be a mechanic in Orlando, did a considerable amount of drinking but quit when he became ill a few years ago. He

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characterized BELVIN as an ordinary man, a pretty good fellow, not rowdy or overbearing toward his fellow man. He stated the only time he ever made a trip with BELVIN was when [redacted] was head of the Klan before the war when [redacted] and BELVIN made a trip to a state Klan meeting in Tampa.

He said RAYMOND G. HOWELL was unknown to him. He was questioned about the following and furnished the information set forth below:

[redacted] a quiet, easy-going person, never rowdy, who was acquainted with him years ago.

[redacted] attends the Orlando Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans, having been there the previous evening, Wednesday, March 5, 1952. He was always a good, quiet young man, never engaged in any violence.

LLOYD HATCH: attends meetings at the Orlando Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans but is not too regular. He has had a lot of difficulty with illegal fishing charges. Recently he was convicted with [redacted] at Cocoa, Florida, and is presently out on bond on charges in Lake County at Tavares. HATCH lives at Lake Jessup but is working in DeLand as a welder for a tug boat construction company.

[redacted] claimed he knows nothing about the [redacted] incident and knows nothing of the MELVIN WOMACK killing except what he had read in the newspapers.

When questioned about the [redacted] incident [redacted] claimed it was a family affair. However, he claimed he did not believe [redacted] of [redacted] would arrange for such a beating although he admitted the brothers had had a falling out. He related that [redacted] used to furnish fish for wholesaling by the [redacted] at the same time that [redacted] was associated with them. Then [redacted] and [redacted] bought a sawmill, but never set it up. [redacted] asked for his money back and received it. [redacted] managed to get some old big cypress logs which had been cut and were sunk in Lake Jessup. [redacted] bought back into the sawmill partnership. After [redacted] split up [redacted] again wanted to get his money out of the enterprise and also wanted a share of the logs that had been pulled out of Lake Jessup.

[redacted] claimed he heard that [redacted] had received a beating and that his wife had seen [redacted] the next day and did not think he looked too bad. [redacted] told [redacted] he thought [redacted]

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[redacted] was responsible for the beating. [redacted] insisted that [redacted]
[redacted] was responsible for the beating of [redacted]

Regarding the burning of [redacted] [redacted] said that a short time before the fire [redacted] took a sewing machine and some other furniture out of the house and carried it to his aunt's place. He thought [redacted] had his house burned in order to get some insurance because he wanted some money to buy a fish camp across the lake.

The following is a description of [redacted] as obtained from observation and interrogation:

Race	white
Sex	male
<u>Birth date</u>	
<u>Birthplace</u>	
Height	
Weight	
Hair	
Eyes	
Complexion	
Father	
Mother	
Wife	
Children	
Brother-in-law	
Peculiarities	

Business

Residence

Fingerprints

Photographs

available in various poses

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 13, 1952, at Taft, Florida.

BASIS: ADIS JERNIGAN interviewed inasmuch as he was reported to be one of those who attempted to have T.H. BELVIN resign as Exalted Cyclops of the Orlando Klan.

ADIS JERNIGAN, 9th Street and Route 50, Winter Garden, Florida, was interviewed at his work in a remote orange grove on the outskirts of Taft.

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He stated he has been a member of the Association of Georgia Klans, Winter Garden branch, for approximately eight or nine years. For approximately the past year he has not been actively associated with the group, his work demanding too much of his time.

On questioning JERNIGAN stated he was scarcely acquainted with suspect BELVIN and refused to comment on any action he had taken to have BELVIN resign as Exalted Cyclops of the Orlando Klan. He stated he knew [redacted] but refused to reveal whether [redacted] was or is a member of the Klan. He also stated he is acquainted with RAYMOND G. HOWELL, ROBERT L. [redacted] JAMES B. JOHNSON and [redacted]. Of all these he stated he believed them to be "good fellows" and refused to disclose whether or not they are or have been members of any Klan. JERNIGAN stated he is acquainted with EARL J. BROOKLYN and has known him for about eighteen years, having been rather closely associated with him during the past ten years. He knew BROOKLYN when they were children in Ocoee, Florida. According to JERNIGAN, BROOKLYN has not been active in the Winter Garden Klan for approximately six or seven years.

JERNIGAN stated he is now head of the Klorkan Committee of the Winter Garden branch of the Association of Georgia Klans and has held that position for three or four years. He explained his job in this office as that of investigating prospective members, instances involving needy families and sick persons and seeing to it they were adequately taken care of.

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He vehemently denied his duties included taking care of individuals who might be considered undesirables. He stated when information regarding such persons came to his attention or the attention of any Klan member it was his duty to inform the proper authorities in law enforcement so such individuals might be taken care of by due process of law. He stated he was certain there were no members of the Klan who would take the law into their own hands and perpetrate any acts of violence on anyone for any reason.

Concerning instant bombing JERNIGAN stated he had heard MOORE discussed for the first time after the bombing; however, at no time was the bombing discussed at any meetings and the only thing he knew about it was what he heard on the street in general conversation. He stated he knew of no member of the Klan who would do such a thing.

JERNIGAN also denied having seen any floor plans of the MOORE house either in a Klan meeting or on the outside.

He promised his cooperation in furnishing to the FBI any information that might come to his attention regarding instant bombing.

The following description of JERNIGAN was obtained through observation and interrogation:

Name	WILLIAM ADIS JERNIGAN
Address	Post Office Box 366, 9th Street and Route 50, Winter Garden, Florida
<u>Age</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Birth date</u>	<u>April 22, 1911</u>
<u>Birthplace</u>	<u>Laurel Hill, Florida</u>
Height	5'11"
Weight	200
Build	heavy
Hair	brown, grey-streaked
Eyes	blue
Complexion	ruddy
Occupation	Jernigan & Brooker Contracting Company, a citrus picking and hauling concern
Wife	
Brothers	
Military service	none
Arrest record	claims none

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 8, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: F. E. LOOMIS interviewed inasmuch as he was allegedly one of four members of the Orlando Klan who asked BELVIN to resign and was allegedly active with the radical element in Winter Garden.

F. E. LOOMIS, undertaker, 428 East Plant Street, admitted joining the Winter Garden Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans approximately four or five years ago but denied holding an office in the Klan and denied participating in or having knowledge of any violence in connection with Klan activities in the Winter Garden or any other Klan.

Throughout the interview LOOMIS was generally uncooperative, refused to answer numerous questions and claimed he had no knowledge of specific incidents and that even if he had he could not divulge same due to his Klan oath.

It was pointed out to LOOMIS that in connection with the Klan oath he also took an oath to help law enforcement officers, which he denied.

LOOMIS said he always has been and always will be Klan minded; however, he does not now and never has advocated violence in carrying out Klan policies.

He claims he never heard of HARRY T. MOORE until after MOORE's home was bombed and that, although he does not believe in capital punishment, whoever killed MOORE should be prosecuted for murder and electrocuted.

LOOMIS denied ever hearing MOORE's name mentioned in Klan meetings. He also denied knowledge of and/or participation in other acts of violence against individuals in the Winter Garden area during recent years and said such things were never discussed at Klan meetings at which he was present and he claimed he heard about incidents after they occurred through people talking on the street.

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LOOMIS admitted knowing EARL J. BROOKLYN, [REDACTED] TILLMAN H. BELVIN, [REDACTED] and JAMES B. JOHNSON but refused to state whether he had ever seen them at Klan meetings and also refused to state whether he knew them to be Klan members.

He steadfastly denied ever hearing of any Klan participation in violent acts but said if he "wanted a neighbor taken care of" he knew where he could "get the job done". He would not explain this statement.

F. E. LOOMIS' declined to allow Agents to take his photograph, stating, "I don't want my picture shown to a bunch of niggers at Mims".

The following description of LOOMIS was obtained through interrogation and observation:

Name	FRANCIS EPHRAIM LOOMIS
Address	428 East Plant Street, Winter Garden, Florida
<u>Age</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Birth date</u>	<u>September 2, 1907</u>
<u>Birthplace</u>	<u>Elkins, West Virginia</u>
Height	6'4"
Weight	230
Build	heavy
Eyes	blue
Hair	brown, grey-streaked
Scars and marks	tattoo star left forearm; mole center of chin; operation scar on stomach
Occupation	undertaker and funeral director
Education	2 years John B. Stetson University, DeLand, Florida; 1 year Renovard Embalming School, New York City
Military service	U. S. Navy, 1923 to 1926, S 2/c, honorable discharge (claims deferment World War II because of arthritis)
Arrest record	claims never in jail but admits arrested several times for speeding, dates and places not recalled

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Wife

[redacted]

Father

Mother

Brother

[redacted]

deceased

resides Daytona Beach

[redacted]

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 7, 1952, at Apopka, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] alleged former Exalted Cyclops of a Klavern in Apopka, interviewed for any information he might have of Klan activities and of suspects BROOKLYN and BELVIN.

[redacted] advised he was a Klansman but had dropped out of the organization ten or eleven years ago. He stated just prior to World War II he felt that war was imminent and decided a Klan would be necessary in and around Apopka. He was very vague as to why a Klan would be necessary in time of war. He merely stated he felt they could be of some use in the community. He advised he gathered a group of about 24 men and set about obtaining a charter from the Florida Klan. He could not state the exact date. He stated that in his opinion the Klan was a good thing if it were handled in the right way by responsible citizens. However, he stated that if the Klan fell into the hands of unreliable persons it could be a vicious organization. Three weeks after the organization of the Klan he dropped out. His plan was just to organize the Klan and then step out. He said he had no particular reason for leaving the Klan but just wanted to see one started and then drop out.

To his knowledge there was no one member he could single out as being a "rough-neck" or agitator. He refused to reveal names, saying he could not remember them. He stated he had never held an office in the Florida Klan.

[redacted] advised he could name no one presently associated with the Klan in Apopka and the only Klan activities he could recall in recent years was a speech made about a month ago, by BILL HENDRIX in Orlando. He advised he wanted to help Agents as much as he could but could not recall any Klan members or incidents of value. He stated he did not believe in the "rides" in which the Klan participated nor did he think any of the members of the Klan he organized believed in such activities. He did not know anything about any particular "rides".

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When asked about the following individuals [redacted] stated he never heard of them before: EARL J. BROOKLYN, TILLMAN H. BELVIN, JAMES B. JOHNSON, [redacted] and [redacted]

He stated he was acquainted with [redacted] as he is presently opposing [redacted] in the coming election for Constable. He said that he did not care to make any statements about [redacted] as he was his political opponent and did not feel it was proper to tell law enforcement officers what he objected to about [redacted] and his constabulary duties. He said the only things he knew wrong with [redacted] concerned local affairs. He insisted they had nothing to do with Klan activities or with instant bombing.

[redacted] upon hearing the names of [redacted] [redacted] stated he did not know any of them.

He stated [redacted] was a nice fellow and as far as he knew was not a member of the Klan.

[redacted] is known to him by sight but he knows nothing about him.

[redacted] is believed active in the Klan. He could not state why he believed [redacted] was in the Klan.

[redacted] seemed to be a decent sort of fellow, but not too intelligent.

[redacted] had a fair reputation in the community and [redacted] could not state whether he was active in the Klan.

BILL BOGAR was a nice fellow but a little erratic in his talk which was attributed to a war wound BOGAR is supposed to have received. He said BOGAR is very talkative.

[redacted] said he is a close friend of [redacted] Orange County Sheriff, and that he has worked along with him in law enforcement work in the past and was himself a deputy sheriff down-state for eleven or twelve years.

He said [redacted] who resides on Lake Apopka and was at one time a game commissioner for the State of Florida was an ex-Klansman and could possibly furnish considerable information concerning various Klansmen of the area. He felt [redacted] at one time was Exalted Cyclops of the Apopka Klan although he was not sure.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ.

[redacted] Shore Drive, Lake Apopka, was interviewed for any information he might have concerning the Klan in and around Apopka. He advised he has not been active in any Klan work for at least fifteen years. He stated approximately fifteen years ago he had been actively associated with the Klan, then the Association of Georgia Klans, in Orlando but had dropped his participation at the time the Klan meeting house in Orlando burned. Since that time he has had no connection with the Klan, for three reasons: first, a lack of interest on his part; second, lack of time on his part; and third, because he had become badly crippled with arthritis necessitating his remaining at home.

He was questioned regarding any information he had concerning the below listed individuals and made the following comments:

TILLMAN H. BELVIN: he recalls him as a mechanic who had his shop on South Hughey Street, Orlando. He saw him frequently at the Ku Klux Klan lodge in Orlando before the meeting house burned. He never knew him to participate in any violent activities of the Klan.

EARL J. BROOKLYN: He does not know him.

JAMES B. JOHNSON: He recalls JOHNSON fixed his wife's sewing machine at one time but knows nothing about him.

[redacted] He does not know him.

[redacted] He does not know him.

[redacted] has known him well for several years as a former neighbor. He is at the present time running against [redacted] of Apopka for the office of Constable. He does not know if [redacted] was ever active in Klan affairs.

[redacted] knows as Constable in Apopka and describes him as a "good man".

BILL BOGAR: described as "Crazy Man Bogar". He explained this by stating BOGAR was shell-shocked during World War I and that his mind has apparently been affected since that time. He is given to tall stories.

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[redacted] knows only as Chief of Police, Apopka.
[redacted] LLOYD HATCH and [redacted] knows [redacted] as a commercial fisherman who was suspected of illegal fishing activities during the time he was fish and game warden. Both [redacted] were fishing partners and close friends of [redacted] during this time.

Other individuals mentioned to [redacted] were unknown to him.

[redacted] stated he knew nothing about any atrocities such as beatings that had been administered by the Klan on any individuals. He personally did not believe in such actions and heartily condemned it. He appeared cooperative but repeatedly stated that due to his long disassociation with the Klan he was unable to recall any of the individuals connected with the Klan during the time he was in the Klan. He stated he was not acquainted with any of the individuals presently associated with the Klan because of his physical disability. He had no knowledge of any Klan connection with instant bombing.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 10, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] allegedly [redacted] of the Winter Garden Klan in 1951, interviewed for any information he may have concerning suspects BROOKLYN and BELVIN.

[redacted] of the Winter Garden Hardware Store, stated he was a member of the Klan but refused to give any other information whatsoever in regard to Klan activities or membership. He stated that in his Klan oath he was obliged not to discuss anything to outsiders about Klan activities.

He was given to various outbursts on politics to throw off questioning and at one time stated, "You guys from the FBI are running around here picking on the Klan when you should be out catching the Communists who are trying to overthrow the government."

He was advised he would not have to violate the Klan oath and that interviewing Agents were aware of who were Klan members in Winter Garden. He was asked to furnish his opinion of the following named men:

EARL J. BROOKLYN, TILLMAN H. BELVIN, [redacted]
JAMES B. JOHNSON and [redacted]

After each name he merely repeated the statement, "He's a fine fellow."

In view of the fact [redacted] was extremely uncooperative, the interview was terminated.

It is to be noted [redacted] is a business partner of [redacted] [redacted] known Winter Garden Klansman who was also uncooperative when interviewed.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [redacted] on March 10, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: JOE N. COX, allegedly old-time Klansman, interviewed concerning terrorist activities in Orlando and vicinity and for information he might have concerning suspects BROOKLYN and BELVIN and others.

JOE N. COX readily admitted he was a former Klansman connected with the Association of Georgia Klans in Orlando. He stated he has dropped active participation in the Klan for many years and is at the present time deeply involved in politics. He is running for the office of Supervisor of Registration for Orange County.

He disclaimed any knowledge of terrorist activities on the part of the Klan although he admitted that it was possible the Klan might have been involved in one or more beatings in the past, adding that he personally knew nothing about them. He stated he knows nothing about instant bombing and could not name anyone of his former associates in the Klan who would be capable of doing anything like that. COX stated that as far as the atrocities and terrorist activities of the Klan were concerned he knew only what he had seen in the newspapers.

Concerning suspects BROOKLYN and BELVIN, as well as [redacted] JOHNSON and [redacted] he made the following statements:

TILLMAN H. BELVIN is recalled as quite a radical persons about fifteen years ago. However, at the present time BELVIN is a very sick man and has not been actively associated with the Klan in any way since the beginning of World War II.

COX is not well acquainted with EARL J. BROOKLYN and only knows him by sight.

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[REDACTED] is known to COX only as a customer of his where he is employed in the Medlock Tractor Company, East Central Avenue, Orlando, Florida.

Concerning suspect JAMES B. JOHNSON he stated he last saw JOHNSON about one year ago. He claims to know very little about JOHNSON but mentioned he had heard JOHNSON had gotten into some kind of trouble about a year ago in Brevard County, at which time JOHNSON allegedly beat up a white boy for reasons unknown.

[REDACTED] is unknown to COX.

JOE N. COX refused to elucidate on his activities in the Klan, falling back on the oath he took at the time he joined the Klan.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and FRANK F. MEECH on March 7, 1952, at Sanford, Florida.

BASIS: ERNEST JAMES BROOKLYN interviewed in March as he is a brother of a principal suspect, EARL J. BROOKLYN.

ERNEST JAMES BROOKLYN who is 44 years of age resides in an old grove near Lake Mary, Florida, being employed as a caretaker and grove maintenance man by Niblock Groves 12 years. ERNEST BROOKLYN claims he had not seen his brother EARL BROOKLYN in six months. He said that latest visit six months ago occurred incidental to a fox hunting trip by EARL BROOKLYN and some companion whose identity is unknown to ERNEST BROOKLYN. He related that ever since they were very young he and EARL always fought each other. He said EARL BROOKLYN was a type who would be inclined to fight if anyone disputed his word. Because of his terrible temper ERNEST BROOKLYN developed the habit of just listening to EARL and not even carrying on a two-way conversation with him for fear of receiving a beating from him. He doubts that EARL BROOKLYN has visited his, ERNEST's, home more than six times during the twelve years that ERNEST has resided in the grove at Lake Mary. During that period he himself has visited EARL's home about three or four times. He claims that he does not even know where EARL BROOKLYN is presently employed. He knows nothing about EARL BROOKLYN's Klan activities except that he knows that in the past EARL has been a member of the Klan. [redacted] whom he has seen more often told him that both he and EARL belonged to the Klan and tried to induce ERNEST to join.

When questioned about EARL BROOKLYN's associates ERNEST BROOKLYN stated that years ago EARL used to run around with WALTER BALLARD, [redacted] and [redacted]. He believed that EARL was associated with [redacted] more than anyone else until they had a disagreement over some unknown matter about two years ago. Since that time, it is his understanding they have seen very little of each other. When questioned as to the reason why EARL BROOKLYN has such an anti-negro feeling ERNEST BROOKLYN could only attribute it to the race riot which occurred

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in their home town of Ocoee, Florida, in 1919 or 1920 when many negroes were killed and their houses burned. He believes that incident must have had a lasting effect on EARL. He also stated that [redacted] feels the same way about negroes as EARL does. ERNEST BROOKLYN recalled that EARL BROOKLYN used to hunt with SMITH MANNING many years ago.

When questioned about TILLMAN BELVIN, ERNEST BROOKLYN claimed he never did know him. When questioned about instant case involving the killing of HARRY MOORE at Mims he stated he had never heard [redacted] mention HARRY MOORE and knew nothing about the case except what he read in the newspaper. He further claimed he did not know many of the people in Winter Garden except some very old settlers since he restricted his activities to the Lake Mary area which is many miles from Winter Garden. EARL BROOKLYN is not the type person to visit or associate with his relatives. Therefore his sisters who are named below have had very little contact with him in recent years. In fact EARL BROOKLYN and [redacted] do not get along very well together either.

[redacted] EARL BROOKLYN are as follows:

[redacted] of Ocoee, Florida--husband works for Ropers Packing Company.

Mrs. CALVIN (ANNIE) MANN who is the oldest in the family and resides somewhere in Lakeland, Florida.

[redacted] of Ocoee, Florida--husband works for [redacted] in grove work.

In an attempt to locate ERNEST BROOKLYN [redacted] of Lake Mary, Florida, [redacted] was interviewed. She stated that the BROOKLYN family is not very close and that [redacted] sees his own family only about twice a month. The first and last time she ever saw EARL BROOKLYN was about four years ago. At one time since then EARL BROOKLYN dropped in at the house and inquired of [redacted] if he had seen any of his dogs. It seemed EARL BROOKLYN was in on a fox hunt and had lost his dogs. She knows that EARL BROOKLYN does not associate with his family because of his bad temperament. [redacted] has visited her home on several occasions, mainly to talk baseball with [redacted] who is a [redacted]

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and [redacted] on March 10, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] who CIs reported to be involved in terrorist activities in the Winter Garden, Florida, area, interviewed for information concerning these activities and for background information concerning suspects BROOKLYN and BELVIN.

[redacted] advised [redacted] the Mims Barber Shop and resides at [redacted] Winter Garden, Florida. He stated he has lived at Winter Garden for approximately [redacted] years and that he is [redacted] name being [redacted]

He admitted joining the Ku Klux Klan at Winter Garden in about 1936 or 1937. He said he remained a member until approximately 1947. He advised that for a period of about two years just before the last war he had been a member of the Klokann Committee at Winter Garden. He said at no time while he was a member of this committee had they participated in any terrorist activities.

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[redacted] advised that he returned from the Army in about 1946 and that when he attended a Klan meeting at Winter Garden he became disgusted because the Klan was becoming involved in politics and he saw some members of the Klan with whom he did not care to associate. He stated he has not been to a Klan meeting since that time and knows nothing of the Klan activities.

He refused to furnish the names of officers or members of the Klan at the time he was attending because of the oath he had taken at the time he entered the Klan.

[redacted] advised he was well acquainted with [redacted] as [redacted] had worked as [redacted] in the Mims Barber Shop for about ten months. He recalled he had a fight with [redacted] because [redacted] had stolen a gun and he also remembered that [redacted] had been taken out by a group of

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white men and beaten and shot. He denied having anything whatsoever to do with this crime and denied knowing the identity of the men who participated. He explained he and his wife often attend auction sales in the vicinity of Orlando and that [redacted] at Winter Garden, had asked [redacted] to try to find some odd or antique pistols for his gun collection. According to [redacted] told him if he found any such pistols he should buy them and [redacted] would give him the money he paid for the guns. [redacted] stated at one auction sale held in Orlando during about the first part of 1949 he purchased a pistol for about \$2.00 or \$3.00 for [redacted]. He said the name of this pistol was "British Bulldog" and that he had obtained this pistol at an auction being held by the Trail Auction House located on South Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando. [redacted] advised he took this gun to the barber shop and placed it in a canvas bag in which he also kept barbering tools. At the time he placed the gun in the bag [redacted] saw him. He said he never thought any more about the gun until about a month later when a young colored boy known to [redacted] as [redacted] came to him and told him [redacted] had this gun in the negro quarters and was threatening some of the negroes with it.

He said when he received this information he went to the canvas bag and saw the gun was missing. He then asked [redacted] if he had taken the gun and [redacted] admitted having the gun at home. He said this was approximately 1:00 P.M. and that he told [redacted] he would give him one hour in which to bring the gun back to the barber shop. According to [redacted] stayed around the barber shop until the last minute and just managed to get home and bring the gun back by 2:00 P.M. [redacted] stated as [redacted] gave him the gun [redacted] asked [redacted] why he had taken it. According to [redacted] then said for him to keep his mouth shut as he had gotten his gun back and also used some profanity at that time. [redacted] said when [redacted] made this statement he tried to hit [redacted] with the pistol but missed him. Both scuffled around the barber shop and [redacted] said [redacted] never tried to hit him but only kept out of [redacted] way. He thought they had scuffled about five minutes when [redacted] hurt his injured knee and ended the scuffle by sitting in the middle of the barber shop floor. He then got up and continued his business and to the best of his memory [redacted] stayed at the barber shop.

About 3:00 P.M. WILLIE WELCH, former policeman at Winter Garden, now deceased, came to the barber shop and told [redacted] he heard [redacted] was having some trouble with [redacted] [redacted] thinks at this time he asked WELCH to put [redacted] in jail for stealing the gun. [redacted] recalls that WELCH got Policeman [redacted] who was on duty at that time and

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Officer [redacted] placed [redacted] in jail. [redacted] stated nothing more was said about [redacted] until about 7:00 P.M. when he was driving home. He explained he stopped in his automobile at a stop sign directly beside the First National Bank at Winter Garden and that Officer [redacted] came over and asked if he was going to get a warrant out for [redacted]. [redacted] said he told [redacted] he was not going to get a warrant and that [redacted] could be turned loosed. He then went home, had a cup of coffee with his wife and they, he and his wife, and his aunt, [redacted] then went to an auction sale at Orlando. [redacted] said he did not hear what happened to [redacted] until the following morning when a [redacted] who operated a shoe shop at Winter Garden at that time stopped by the barber shop and told him [redacted] had been taken out by a group of white men the night before and beaten and shot. [redacted] stated again that he had nothing whatsoever to do with this crime and did not know the persons responsible for it.

[redacted] said he has been acquainted with EARL J. BROOKLYN for about twenty years. He said he first met BROOKLYN at Ocoee, Florida, and that BROOKLYN at that time had a reputation of being a tough character in Ocoee. He said to the best of his memory BROOKLYN seemed always to be fighting and that [redacted] had had fist fights with BROOKLYN.

He denied knowing TILLMAN H. BELVIN.

[redacted] also advised the only information he had concerning the HARRY T. MOORE case was what was read by him in the newspapers. He stated he had never heard of the name HARRY T. MOORE until he read about the bombing of MOORE's residence.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 12, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed inasmuch as [redacted] was a former fellow employee of suspect BROOKLYN at the Super Concrete Company and, according to BROOKLYN's supervisor, was approached by BROOKLYN to join the Klan.

While attempting to establish contact with [redacted] [redacted] volunteered the following information concerning [redacted] former association with the Klan.

She stated he was a former member of the Klan but she had forced him to quit the organization when they were married about two years ago. She stated he had been originally invited to join the Klan by EARL BROOKLYN with whom [redacted] are well acquainted. When BROOKLYN approached him to join the Klan he had a great deal of respect and admiration for BROOKLYN and was an enthusiastic member of the Klan. Since that time he apparently has lost his admiration for BROOKLYN and does not now like him.

She identified the following individuals as being associated with [redacted]

EARL BROOKLYN

J. B. JOHNSON

In addition to the above individuals she was able to recall MOSE BRYANT and [redacted] as being members of the Klan around Ocoee, Florida where she was born and reared. She knew there were other Klansmen around Ocoee, was unable to recall their names at the present time.

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In addition to the above-named persons [redacted] said she was certain [redacted] were members of a Klan, although she was not sure whether they were members in her husband's Klavern. She stated her husband liked both of these individuals very much and was very friendly with them.

[redacted] stated she personally does not like EARL J. BROOKLYN although she was unable to make any specific statements concerning the basis of her dislike for him. She stated she just does not like him.

To date repeated attempts to contact and interview [redacted] [redacted] have been unsuccessful.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and [redacted] on March 14, 1952, at Apopka, Florida.

BASIS: Confidential Informant advised suspect EARL BROOKLYN contacted [redacted] at Apopka numerous times during the months of November and December, 1951.

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[redacted] whose business address is in care of the Talton Real Estate Company, Apopka, advised he had joined the Klan at Apopka in 1946. He said this was immediately after he was discharged from the Armed Forces. He stated that from about 1947 to 1948 he was [redacted] of the Ku Klux Klan at Apopka, the Association of Georgia Klans, and that WILLIAM BOGAR was Exalted Cyclops at that time. BOGAR was the only Exalted Cyclops [redacted] could remember. He explained he did not attend meetings regularly because of his business and that during 1949 he stopped going to meetings altogether. [redacted] advised he became disgusted with the organization because of the lack of unity among the members and that the members were continuously squabbling among themselves.

He also advised that the only person he could remember that attended the Klan meetings at Apopka who was from Winter Garden was [redacted]. He remembered him because [redacted] was always asking for contributions for sick people in the Winter Garden area. He advised he did not know T. H. BELVIN and that to the best of his memory BELVIN had never attended a Klan meeting at Apopka while [redacted] was in attendance. He said he has known EARL BROOKLYN for about two years only as a constituent who lives in his, [redacted] county district. [redacted] stated he has never seen BROOKLYN at a Klan meeting and he does not know whether BROOKLYN is a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

[redacted] advised that during the months of November and December, 1951, BROOKLYN was interested in having a dirt road repaired in front of his house and also interested in being connected with the Orlando Water supply system. [redacted] said BROOKLYN contacted him numerous times in regard to these matters and that [redacted] had finally had the road fixed

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in front of BROOKLYN's house to stop BROOKLYN from contacting him. He also had assisted BROOKLYN in getting connected with the water supply system of Orlando. [] stated at no time while he was a member of the Klan had he ever heard anyone at a Klan meeting discuss any terrorist activities. He said he had never known the name HARRY T. MOORE until he read in the paper that MOORE's residence had been bombed on Christmas day, 1951. He also advised that he had never heard that anyone had plans of the MOORE residence.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and [redacted] on March 12, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed for any information he could give regarding Klan and terrorist activities, Winter Garden area, and information concerning instant case.

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[redacted] advised he is part owner of the M & M Welding Shop and resides on North Main Street in Winter Garden, Florida. He said he has been living in Winter Garden since about 1920 and has been a member of the Ku Klux Klan since about 1923. [redacted] in the past has held the position of treasurer in the Klan but states he holds no position at the present time. He stated the Klan in Winter Garden is mostly a benevolent association that takes care of its sick members. He has never heard any discussion in a Klan meeting concerning terrorist activities. [redacted] advised that if the Klan has participated in any such activities the plans were probably made in the Klokann Committee. He denied he had ever participated in any such activities. He explained that he is against night riding activities and that he definitely believes in law and order. He stated if he positively knew the Klan had participated in any terrorist activities he would resign but he believes the Klan is being falsely accused.

He advised he has known EARL BROOKLYN about four years and met him through his fox hunting activities. He stated he knew nothing derogatory concerning BROOKLYN's character and would not state whether or not he knew BROOKLYN to be a member of the Ku Klux Klan. [redacted] also advised he has known TILLMAN H. BELVIN for many years. He admitted seeing BELVIN at Klan meetings and stated to his knowledge BELVIN was of excellent character and had never participated in any terrorist activities.

[redacted] refused to give the names of the members of the Klan at Winter Garden because of the oath he had taken at the time he entered the Klan. He stated he had attended Klan meetings at Apopka, Florida, with

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TILLMAN H. BELVIN but to the best of his memory he had never been to a Klan meeting with EARL J. BROOKLYN.

He denied ever seeing the plans of MOORE's house and said to his knowledge HARRY T. MOORE had never been discussed at a Klan meeting. He said the first time he heard of MOORE was when he read about the bombing of the MOORE residence at Mims.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [redacted] on March 14, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed inasmuch as he was reportedly involved in terrorist activities, for information regarding BROOKLYN and BELVIN.

[redacted] denied being a Klansman and stated he has never been a member of any Klan. He stated he had been in receipt of post cards back in 1946 and 1947 asking him to join the Ku Klux Klan but he had ignored these invitations. He advised he has never been approached by any individual seeking his membership in the Klan.

[redacted] advised he did not know EARL BROOKLYN, T. H. BELVIN, J. B. JOHNSON, [redacted]

He stated he has never engaged in terrorist activities and was at a loss to know how such gossip had been started in regard to him. He advised he is not anti-negro in the least since his business establishment caters primarily to the negroes in the colored quarters of Winter Garden. It is noted [redacted] market is situated on the corner of 9th Street and Plant Avenue and that the majority of his trade is with the negro population.

He could furnish no information regarding the beatings administered to the negroes or whites in or around Winter Garden. However, he stated a couple months ago to the best of his knowledge a colored cab driver named [redacted] had mentioned to him that he was riding around in [redacted] cab and during this ride [redacted] had severely cursed a white man. At this point [redacted] told [redacted] he got out of [redacted] cab and left as he knew something might happen. Later he read that [redacted] cab had been shot up and [redacted] had received a severe beating. [redacted] said he knew of no other incidents and felt sure [redacted] could identify the white man who had been cursed by [redacted]

He advised he is not aware of anyone he knows being a Klansman. He said it is possible some of his acquaintances are Klansmen but he is not aware of their membership.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 13, 1952, at Monteverde, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed inasmuch as he was past Exalted Cyclops of the Winter Garden Klan for any information he might have concerning terrorist activities and background concerning suspects in instant case.

[redacted] was interviewed at his work in an orange grove in the vicinity of Monteverde. He readily admitted he had been a member of the Winter Garden branch of the Association of Georgia Klans for several years but stated he had not paid his dues for three or four months. He stood on his oath taken as a Klansman in refusing to reveal the names of any individual members of the Klan.

He furnished the following information concerning the following individuals although he would not admit they were members of a Klan.

EARL J. BROOKLYN: known to him several years ago before BROOKLYN moved away from west Orange County.

[redacted] known for a few years. Appears to be a good citizen, not given to any form of violence.

[redacted] known for several years and believed of good character. He knows of no trouble in which [redacted] has been involved.

[redacted] knows him as [redacted] for the Winter Garden Citrus Growers Exchange and believes him to be of good character.

TILLMAN H. BELVIN: knew him several years ago when he was in the garage business in Orlando. BELVIN appeared to be of good character.

JAMES B. JOHNSON: acquainted with him only slightly and met at a barbecue several years ago, the occasion not recalled.

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Names of other individuals who have come up in instant investigation as being associated with the Klan in and around Winter Garden were mentioned to [redacted] Of each he stated he either did not know him or he was a person known to him only by name and as far as he knew he was of good character.

[redacted] stated he knew of no one in the Klan who would be capable of committing an atrocity such as instant bombing. He stated that at no time either in or out of any Klan meeting had he seen the floor plans of MOORE's house. In addition, he had never heard any discussion concerning MOORE either by Klansmen or other persons.

He promised should any information concerning instant case come to his attention he would immediately convey same to the FBI.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and [redacted] on March 12, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted]
Winter Garden, Florida, interviewed for any information he may have concerning suspects in instant case and information concerning terrorist activities around Winter Garden.

[redacted] (previously reported as [redacted] advised he resides at [redacted] and is [redacted] the Ison Shell Service Station in Winter Garden. [redacted] said he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan at Winter Garden for about twelve months during 1948 and 1949. He said that while he was in the Klan he had heard rumors that the Klan had participated in terrorist activities and that because of this he had resigned. [redacted] said he did not want to belong to any organization that would do such things and the fact there were rumors to the effect the Klan was participating in night riding activities was sufficient reason for him to resign. He said he has not been to a Klan meeting since that time.

He refused to give the names of the officers and members of the Klan during that period because of the oath he had taken at the time he entered the Klan. He said he had no information as to the identity of persons participating in terrorist activities in that area. He also advised he had never seen the plans of HARRY T. MOORE's house at a Klan meeting or anywhere else and that he had never heard of HARRY T. MOORE until he read about the bombing of MOORE's house in the newspaper.

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II. INVESTIGATION REGARDING SUSPECT JAMES B. JOHNSON

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [redacted] on March 19, 1952, at Sharpe, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] was reported to have introduced JAMES B. JOHNSON to T-8. JOHNSON thereafter tried to organize a Klavern of the Ku Klux Klan in Cocoa, Florida.

[redacted] advised he is not a member of the Klan but had been a member of [redacted]. He stated he was a member in [redacted] in 1945 and 1946 and to his knowledge [redacted] was the Exalted Cyclops. Later [redacted] was on the Klokann Committee along with JAMES B. JOHNSON and one ALVIE GEORGE who is now deceased.

He advised that during his association with the Klan he did not participate in and had not heard of any "rides" or terrorist activities. He said he knew they made up baskets of food and delivered them to the needy negroes around Christmas time and then they would tell the negroes who the food was from and would frighten them. [redacted] did not know the purpose of this.

[redacted] stated he had never heard of HARRY T. MOORE until the instant bombing and that he had never seen or heard of any floor plans of MOORE's home. On no occasion had he heard MOORE's name mentioned at any meeting he attended while a member of the Klan.

On occasion some of the Orlando "boys" came over to Cocoa to fish off the bridge. The group usually included JAMES B. JOHNSON, [redacted] (phonetic), [redacted] (phonetic) and [redacted] said he was not sure whether or not [redacted] was a Klansman. On one occasion he recalled JAMES B. JOHNSON mentioned to [redacted] that he would like to organize a Klavern of the Klan in Cocoa and that he had mentioned it one or two times. He recalled on one of the fishing trips JOHNSON and his associates mentioned Confidential Informant T-8 as previously reported. [redacted] stated that there were no Klaverns in Brevard County to his knowledge.

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[redacted] advised he had never been to a Klan meeting since he moved from Orlando in 1947. He said [redacted] delivered 300 pounds of fish to the Klan meeting hall west of Orlando on a lake. The fish were for a fish fry the Klan planned. He did not participate in the activities but merely delivered the fish and returned to Cocoa.

When questioned concerning JOHNSON he stated he was a good fellow but "rough and ready". He stated he never heard JOHNSON mention HARRY T. MOORE at any time while fishing or otherwise. He did not know much about [redacted] but stated he knew [redacted] was a Klansman at one time.

He named the following as having been Klansmen during the time he was a member:

[redacted] a big fat, happy-go-lucky person. [redacted] had no knowledge of his being a rough character.

JAMES B. JOHNSON, a good fellow, but "rough and ready".

[redacted] of whom he knew nothing derogatory.

JOE N. COX, secretary, seemed like a nice old fellow.

[redacted] about whom he knew nothing other than his membership.

RAYMOND G. HOWELL, of whom he knew only of his membership.

[redacted] (phonetic), of whose last name he was not sure but believed it to be [redacted] who came from near Tampa and was always agitating for cross burning and beating someone but to his knowledge no one paid much attention to him.

[redacted] who was a nice fellow who played poker in the Klan Lodge often.

Of TILLMAN BELVIN, EARL BROOKLYN, [redacted] he said he did not know them by name.

While viewing photographs of Klansmen and suspected Klansmen he picked out a picture of [redacted] and said he believed he was a

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member of the Florida Klan in 1945 or 1946. He did not know his name and when he heard his name, stated it was not familiar to him. He picked a photograph of [redacted] as one who always said the Klan ought to go back to the methods of the Old Klan, burning crosses and "log rolling". [redacted] advised that log rolling meant beating or whipping. He could not identify any other photographs or names of known or suspected Klansmen.

It is to be noted [redacted] was very cooperative during the interview and advised that if he could be of any assistance he would be glad to help. He advised he would notify the FBI at once should any information regarding instant case be received by him.

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III. INVESTIGATION REGARDING SUSPECT E. C. CAMPBELL

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 18, 1952, at Titusville, Florida.

BASIS: All motels, hotels and trailer camps in vicinity of Mims checked for suspicious individuals registered Christmas, 1951 or period immediately preceding.

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The following individuals, either owners or managers of the hotels, motels and trailer camps for a ten mile radius from Mims, Florida, were contacted. In each instance they stated no suspicious persons, to their knowledge, had been registered over the pertinent period and they had no information relative instant investigation.

[redacted]	Ambassador Motel
[redacted]	Titusville Guest Home
[redacted]	Clinton Motel
[redacted]	Terrace Motel
[redacted]	Titusville Cabins
[redacted]	Rainbow Tea Room and Courts
[redacted]	River Palms Hotel Court
[redacted]	Penn-State Trailer Park
[redacted]	Carolina Motel
[redacted]	Longhorn Cabins and Trailers
[redacted]	Washington Hotel
[redacted]	Mount Vernon Lodge
[redacted]	Shady Oaks Motel
[redacted]	, Dee's Motor Court
[redacted]	Indian River Villas Motel Court
[redacted]	Palms Hotel
[redacted]	Siesta Motel
[redacted]	Deluxe Trailer Court
[redacted]	Dixie Hotel
[redacted]	Blue Top Cabins
[redacted]	Live Oaks Cabins

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	Titusville Trailer Court
	Bay View Hotel
	Burt and Wilder Cabins
	River Shore Motel
	Riverside Hotel
	Floridian Hotel-Apartments

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 4, 11 and 18, 1952, at Titusville and Alenhurst, Florida.

BASIS: Information was received from Mobile and Birmingham that E. C. CAMPBELL allegedly flew a light plane from Birmingham, Alabama, to Titusville, Florida, on December 25, 1951, placed a clock mechanism dynamite bomb under MOORE's bedroom and was halfway back to Birmingham when the bomb went off.

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By teletype dated March 4, 1952, the Mobile Office advised that Confidential Informant T-7 had obtained information to the effect that E. C. CAMPBELL of Birmingham, Alabama, owned a Piper Cub plane and that he flew it to Florida December 25, 1951, landing at an airport near Mims, probably Titusville. CAMPBELL reportedly stated he was halfway back to Birmingham in his plane when the clock mechanism on a bomb set off the dynamite under MOORE's bedroom. In this teletype it was reported that Florida State Investigator [redacted] recalled talking with a night policeman at Titusville and that this policeman mentioned to him that a light plane had possibly landed at the Titusville Airport last Christmas afternoon.

By letter dated February 29, 1952, the Birmingham Office advised that suspect CAMPBELL is employed by the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company at Birmingham, Alabama. Through a confidential contact with an official of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company it was determined that CAMPBELL did not work on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, December 23, 24 and 25, 1951. In this connection it will be noted that CAMPBELL works the night shift from 11:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. His work days are so arranged that when his time record indicates he worked eight hours on, for example, December 27, he actually went to work at 11:00 P.M. December 26, working through 7:00 A.M. December 27. In this connection it is also noted CAMPBELL's work record indicates he put in eight hours of work December 26, 1951, indicating he appeared for work at 11:00 P.M. December 25, 1951. This would mean that should CAMPBELL have actually flown to Titusville, placed the bomb under victim MOORE's house and returned to Birmingham on December 25, 1951, he would have had to return prior to 11:00 P.M. at which time he reported for work.

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By teletype dated March 7, 1952, the Birmingham Office advised suspect CAMPBELL has a rating of Captain in the Civil Air Patrol and is a squadron leader. At the time he made application for the Civil Air Patrol he listed among his references one WILLIAM HUGH MORRIS, head of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama. In his original application CAMPBELL indicated he had some 325 hours of flying experience, including practically all light and medium type planes. At the time, date unknown, he owned a BTL3A (Consolidated Vultee) bearing NC 65801. This plane was sold by him over a year ago and has not been in flyable condition in the recent past. It was determined that due to CAMPBELL's wide acquaintance with various plane owners at the Municipal Airport in Birmingham he could have had access to practically any light plane desired by him on a loan basis and, further, that the CAA would not have required his filing flight plans for any such plane. The records of the Civil Air Patrol fail to reflect any flights made by CAMPBELL in official Civil Air Patrol planes during the period of instant bombing.

[redacted] Titusville Airport, advised that the Titusville Airport is open to all transient aircraft and that it has gasoline and mechanic services available. He stated that they do not rent hangar space or tie-down space to transient aircraft. Therefore no records are maintained for such. He also stated that no record of landings or take-offs are recorded because no fees are charged for landings.

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[redacted] stated that on December 25, 1951, he was at the airport until 2:00 P.M. and that [redacted] was on duty at the field in [redacted] absence and would know if any aircraft entered or left the field. During the interview [redacted] noted the closest airfield to the Titusville-Mims area is an auxiliary air strip located along the east coast at a fishing camp called Allenhurst which is 20 miles northeast of the Mims-Titusville area. He also stated that on occasions many light plane enthusiasts have landed on the river bottoms along the St. Johns River for fishing purposes. He stated this river bottom is sometimes excellent for landing if the wind is right and then again if the river is high landing is impossible.

He stated that during the hours he was working at the field no aircraft landed or took off. He recalled he returned to the field around 5:00 P.M. and thereafter no aircraft landed or took off. He said that although the field has a lighting system which enables night operations this

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lighting system is not automatic and has to be turned on manually. He said he did not light the field for any night landings or take-offs during that evening.

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[redacted] recalled that he had been at the airfield during the entire afternoon of Christmas day. He stated that during the time he was there no planes landed or took off.

In connection with the interviews of [redacted] they were shown a photograph of suspect E. C. CAMPBELL. Neither could effect an identification.

It should be noted that Allenhurst is an extremely small community consisting of a restaurant and fishing camp with several cabins located around the restaurant. The restaurant and fishing camp is owned and operated by [redacted] in partnership with [redacted] all of whom were interviewed.

[redacted] recalled that a light plane bearing two male passengers landed at the airstrip at Allenhurst on December 25, 1951, sometime between 1:00 and 2:00 P.M. The occupants got out of the plane, came over to the restaurant, had lunch and immediately returned to their plane and took off. They estimated these individuals were on the ground at Allenhurst approximately twenty to thirty minutes. To the best of their recollection these individuals spoke to no one other than the waitress to whom they gave their order and took off without meeting anyone.

[redacted] recalled this incident in much the same manner as did the [redacted]. He stated he spoke to them and that one of the men stated they were heading into the Carolinas after they left Allenhurst. He also recalled that they appeared to be worried about the take-off and the possibility of cross winds making the take-off difficult. He also recalled one of them asked what the closest town was to which he replied Titusville. According to [redacted] these men landed, had lunch, returned to their plane and took off. He stated he watched them take off and noted they headed south and he thought it was peculiar in the light of their statement that they were heading into the Carolinas. [redacted] stated that the plane was a two-tone yellow and red plane and that he believed it was an Aeronca Champ. It should be noted that neither [redacted] was able to give a description of the plane or its occupants.

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[redacted] furnished the following sketchy descriptions of the plane's occupants:

Occupant #1:

Age	approximately 40
Weight	175-185
Height	5'10"
Clothing	rough leather jacket similar to the A20 Air Force Jacket; highly polished brown pointed shoes; no hat; expensive looking well-pressed trousers

Occupant #2:

Age	approximately 30
Weight	175-185
Height	5'10"
Hair	brown
Characteristic	"quiet type"
Clothing	suit or sport coat and sport trousers

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In connection with the airstrip it will be noted that the strip is approximately 200 yards wide and 800 yards long. There are no facilities such as wind socks or fuel pumps and no lighting facilities. In the last connection it was determined that a light plane can use automobile gasoline and that the same is available at the fishing camp operated by the [redacted]. Both [redacted] stated these men did not get any gasoline prior to their take-off.

On March 11, 1952, Florida State Investigator [redacted] was telephonically contacted at which time he advised he recalled discussing the possibility of a light plane landing at the Titusville Airport on Christmas afternoon with Titusville night patrolman [redacted]. [redacted] stated that during the investigation immediately following the bombing he had met [redacted] a fellow flying enthusiast, and that they had merely discussed the possibility of a plane landing and the occupants placing a bomb under MOORE's house and taking off, thus effecting a getaway. [redacted] stated he had never received any concrete statement from [redacted] or anyone else to the effect that a plane had actually landed at the airport.

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Night Patrolman [redacted] Titusville Police Department, stated he recalled having several conversations with State Investigator [redacted] [redacted] but at no time did he recall discussing with him the possibility of a plane landing at the Titusville Airport Christmas afternoon. In this connection [redacted] distinctly recalled he had been on duty that night and that he had spent the entire day at home with his family. He stated that he is a flying enthusiast and that it had been his practice to go out to the airport on frequent occasions and fly a light plane belonging to a friend of his. However, this friend had sold his plane about three weeks prior to the bombing and [redacted] had not been able to do any flying since then. [redacted] stated he has never heard any rumors to the effect that a plane did or did not land at the airport in Titusville on Christmas day.

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IV. INVESTIGATION OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS,
ORLANDO AREA

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and FRANK F. MEECH on February 29, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: Inasmuch as information had been received that a negro had been beaten by a group of white men outside the bank at Winter Garden and that suspect BROOKLYN had been left at the scene by his associates, investigation was conducted in the Winter Garden area to develop information concerning the identity of the victim in that case and the facts surrounding the beating.

[redacted] Davis Drug Store, was questioned about the above described incident, and stated he recalled that one of the negro janitors of the bank had received a beating early in the evening. He himself was filling a prescription after the regular pharmacist had gone home for the day, heard what he thought was a shot and went out to the rear of his store. He saw a negro jumping around in the street near the police booth holding his head and shouting and yelling. He believed that WILLIE WELCH, the night patrolman who is now deceased was on duty at the time. He also believes that a doctor, [redacted] who has an office nearby might have treated this negro for bruises on his head. [redacted] was unable to recall the name of this negro or the approximate time the incident occurred.

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[redacted] of the First National Bank, advised that about a year ago it was the practice of LUTHER COLEMAN, negro janitor at the Winter Garden Elementary School, to assist [redacted] the regular janitor of the bank, who was also the janitor of the Lake View High School, Winter Garden, in cleaning the bank after hours. He understands that it was in the evening about 6 or 7 o'clock in February, 1951, that LUTHER COLEMAN walked out of the side entrance of the bank as [redacted] was still in the bank. After COLEMAN started to shout and create a disturbance as he was receiving a beating from some unknown white men, [redacted] went out and on seeing what was going on was able to go back into the building without being harmed by the unknown group of white men. [redacted] advised he knew nothing about the incident himself because he was not at the scene.

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[redacted] at the Lake View High School, who resides at [redacted] related that early in 1951 on a Tuesday in February at about 7:00 P.M., as he and LUTHER COLEMAN were cleaning the bank premises at Winter Garden LUTHER COLEMAN went out the side entrance of the bank and was beaten by at least four white men. At the time this occurred LUTHER had been working upstairs in the bank and he was doing the cleaning downstairs. He dropped a load of waste paper in the trash can outside the bank and returned into the bank premises. Then LUTHER COLEMAN walked out the side entrance to drop some waste paper into the waste basket. Just as he [redacted] was starting to sweep the floor on the ground floor he heard LUTHER COLEMAN shouting, "Help, police." [redacted] ran out the side entrance of the bank and saw that about at least four white men had LUTHER COLEMAN on the ground across the street and were beating him with sticks or clubs. Just as [redacted] came out on the street these white men were just turning LUTHER loose and he started crawling on his hands and knees across the street back towards the bank hollering all the time. [redacted] understood that these white men had tried to force LUTHER COLEMAN into a black car which was parked across the street from the side entrance of the bank but he fought so hard and was able to brace his feet against the sides of the car so that they were unable to get him into the car. After he fell to the street outside the car the white men started to beat him. After they turned LUTHER COLEMAN loose the men drove away in two cars, the black car and a yellow convertible which had the top up. [redacted] was unable to furnish any other description of these cars and did not obtain any license numbers. (It is to be noted here that the yellow convertible described by [redacted] was determined by subsequent investigation to belong to [redacted] who is [redacted] at the Winter Garden high school and who was a witness to the scene.) [redacted] was unable to furnish any description whatsoever of the assailants of LUTHER COLEMAN. He did learn from COLEMAN that the first white man who walked up to him was a stout man. He understood that two white men, [redacted] at the school, and a [redacted] witnessed this incident. He believes that [redacted] saw a shotgun in the possession of one of the men. [redacted] himself never did see any firearm.

LUTHER COLEMAN is presently a field foreman in a citrus grove in another part of the state of Florida. He worked for about a month in Winter Garden after this beating and then went elsewhere to visit his father who was ill. He came back to Winter Garden several times in the interim but the last time he was told not to come back any more. [redacted] was unable to furnish the source of this warning or threat but states that some negro whose identity is unknown to him furnished him the information.

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[redacted] advised that [redacted] still resides at Oakland, Florida.

[redacted] of [redacted] residing on new highway to Clermont, who is the [redacted] at the Lake View High School, Winter Garden, furnished the following information. Sometime in February, 1951 in the early evening about 7 o'clock as the local theater was discharging some of its audience [redacted] and [redacted] were driving north on Boyd Street in Winter Garden. As they drove across the railroad track and were passing the police booth he saw a group of about five white men struggling with a colored man. They had a car in the middle of the street across from the bank. At the time he came to this car to which that group of white men had been dragging the negro the men had already been able to put this negro into this car. Then the negro managed to get out of this car. As he was passing this other car he noticed there was a shotgun pointed out of the car toward the negro. Because of his interest in getting out of the line of fire he turned around the corner at Plant Street going east and parked near the grocery. He got out of the car after hearing a shot and came back around the corner toward the spot where he had seen the struggle. By the time he got back around the corner he noticed two cars driving north up the street across the main railroad tracks toward Lake Apopka. At the time the negro who had been struggling with this group was lying in the street for a few seconds and then got up and started yelling for the police. The night patrolman on duty, WILLIE WELCH, now deceased, walked leisurely up from the police booth but did nothing for the screaming negro. [redacted] claims he is unable to recall any of the white men who were beating the negro and could give no description of the two automobiles which sped away with the terrorists in them.

[redacted] on interview advised she recalled seeing five or six white men struggling in the street, trying to force a negro man into a grey car which looked like a Mercury. As the car in which she was riding passed the group the struggle was still in progress. She doesn't know whether or not the group of white men ever were able to get the negro into the car. As they came down the street going north on Boyd Street it looked to her like it was a street brawl. Then as they drove past she recalls hearing more than one shot as they were turning the corner on to Plant Street. [redacted] stated that her husband was driving their 1941 Ford convertible. She was pretty certain there was another car which drove off north on Boyd Street with the aforementioned

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grey car but she was unable to furnish any description of that car or a description of any of the white men who were beating the negro.

[redacted] who resides in Oakland, Florida, and is employed as a domestic by [redacted] advised that [redacted] LUTHER COLEMAN, is presently residing at 300 Lemon Street, Sebring, Florida. She insists that [redacted] LUTHER COLEMAN, who has been in the Winter Garden area since 1935 never knew why he was attacked. At least he never told her that there was any reason for the attack by the group of white men. According to information she received from LUTHER it was on February 6, 1951, between 7:30 and 8:00 P.M. that he walked out of the bank to sweep the sidewalk along Boyd Street which is the side street to the bank. He was suddenly grabbed by each arm by two white men who started to take him across the street to a car and force him into the car. He braced his feet hard against the sides of the car so that the white men were unable to force him into it. When he fell backwards a pistol was discharged once. As the men were trying to force him into the car they hit him over the head with some type of a club. After being unsuccessful in getting LUTHER into the car and after beating him over the head a very short time the group got into the car and drove away. LUTHER told her that he never did see a gun but only heard one go off. He couldn't tell the color of the car nor the make and was unable to describe any of the men who beat him or even the exact number of the men who were involved. He believed that there was a man in the car when the other two tried to force him into the car. He told her that if he saw any of them again he would not be able to identify them. LUTHER was taken to [redacted] who stitched some cuts in his head. This injury to his head has caused him considerable worry because he gets dizzy spells when the weather gets hot. The constable in Winter Garden is supposed to have talked to LUTHER about this incident. For two and a half weeks after the incident LUTHER COLEMAN went back to work at the elementary school in Winter Garden. When his father became ill in Gainesville, Florida, in April, 1951, LUTHER left in order to see him. LUTHER returned to visit her in Winter Garden periodically and was last in Winter Garden about three weeks ago. It was then that [redacted] who rooms with [redacted] over Robinson's Big Shop told LUTHER about some white folks who had come to inquire about LUTHER. [redacted] believes that inquiry by these white men might have started the rumor that LUTHER had been warned to stay out of Winter Garden. She states that LUTHER feels much better staying away from Winter Garden because he has always been puzzled by the beating he received since he does not know the reason for it.

It is to be noted that none of the above individuals saw EARL J. BROOKLYN on the street or at the scene.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT E. SUNKEL and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 11, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed inasmuch as he was reportedly a witness to the beating at Winter Garden, Florida, about a year ago of a negro believed to be LUTHER COLEMAN.

[redacted] Orlando Post Office, advised he recalled that about a year ago he and a friend, [redacted] a fellow employee at the Orlando Post Office, were in Winter Garden delivering newspapers. He said his mother operates a newspaper route which he delivers for her in the evening. He stated he and [redacted] must have been in Winter Garden about 7:00 or 7:30 P.M. because it was dark at the time they heard the cries of the negro being beaten. They heard cries for help and, as nearly as he can recall, a shot. At that time he and [redacted] ran around from the rear of the Post Office where they were delivering papers and saw a crowd gathering by the Winter Garden Bank. Upon approaching the crowd he saw a negro sitting on the curb wiping his head. From comments of the crowd he gathered the negro had been beaten by some white men who had made their escape, driving two automobiles. He stated neither he nor [redacted] actually saw the beating nor did they see the automobiles in which the men escaped. He recalled a police car came a few seconds after they arrived on the scene.

[redacted] was unable to recall anyone who stated he had seen the actual beating. In this connection he noted he is not well acquainted with any individual in Winter Garden and was therefore unable to recognize any of the persons in the crowd.

[redacted] furnished substantially the same information as that furnished by [redacted]

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [redacted] March 8 and 10, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed concerning the identity of his nephew who married a girl allegedly beaten by the Klan.

[redacted] advised he had [redacted] nee [redacted] who lives on [redacted] nee [redacted] who lives outside Orlando on the [redacted] exact location unknown. [redacted] who recently married a Clermont girl unknown to him, who live somewhere in Orlando, exact address unknown; and [redacted] who is presently serving in the United States Marine Corps and the address of [redacted] is unknown.

[redacted] stated none of his [redacted] were ever beaten by the Klan. He recalled he knew of a girl who was severely beaten by Klan members a short time ago. He did not recall the exact date. He said one [redacted] (phonetic) and an unknown girl were bathing on a beach at Lake Apopka, at which time a carload of men came to the beach and took the girls away in the car. They took them out near Black Lake where they administered a severe beating with oak twigs and fists. He said he spoke to [redacted] the next day. She would not tell him who was responsible but did say it was broad daylight when they were taken from the beach and the men who accosted them were all masked. He did not know the number of men or the name of [redacted] associate. He did state [redacted] face was badly marked and cut and that her body was severely lashed. The unknown men advised [redacted] to get out of the state by the next morning. [redacted] stated that soon after he spoke with [redacted] she packed and left town, coming back to visit on occasions for a short time.

[redacted] stated he could not say who in Winter Garden are Klansmen and refused to say who he thought perpetrated the beating of [redacted]

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He advised on three different occasions Klan members tried to "get" him, but he does not know why they picked on him as he has done nothing wrong in the community. He stated one [redacted] had been taken for a "ride" and beaten severely some years ago and as a result [redacted] was a very touchy individual who never travels around without being armed. [redacted] advised he himself carries a revolver and stated that any time the Klan attempts to get him he will kill every man he has a chance to.

He stated that two years ago three carloads of hooded men drove up to his front door and he grabbed his shotgun, stepped out on the porch and told them that the first man who stepped out of the car would get the full blast from the gun, at which time someone asked, "Are you [redacted] [redacted] said he was not and at that time the cars proceeded down the street in front of a school teacher's house. He recalled this teacher's name was [redacted] There was no beating or violence but [redacted] left town and was never heard from again by any neighbors. He could not recall the date of this incident but believed it was right after the war.

The only other Klan activities he could recall were that some years ago about 300 cars paraded through Winter Garden filled with hooded members and the lead car was a red Jeep which had a burning cross attached to the rear.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [redacted]

While interviewing Confidential Informants T-2, T-3 and T-4, [redacted] concerning certain individuals in Winter Garden, it was learned that [redacted] married [redacted] possibly some four years ago. It was also learned from T-4 that [redacted] and one [redacted] present whereabouts unknown, were close companions. Both had poor reputations in the community and on several occasions were seen about the town with black eyes and various body bruises. T-4 stated he had no specific information concerning a whipping that had been administered to the two girls by Klansmen.

Concerning [redacted] T-4 stated her mother presently resides at Stuart, Florida, with her second husband, [redacted] According to T-4, [redacted] was a barber when he lived in Winter Garden and was employed at the same barber shop with [redacted] and one [redacted] T-4 also recalled some talk that had been going around the town that [redacted] father had been [redacted] and that he had been sent to prison sometime during the period 1943 to 1946. T-4 also stated [redacted] has [redacted] [redacted] who resides somewhere in Ohio.

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T-2 recalled an incident which occurred by the Winter Garden Bank about a year ago. He stated a negro known to him only as LUTHER, the janitor of the Winter Garden Grammar School, had left a .45 automatic lying on the desk of the first grade teacher where it was discovered by the teacher, turned over to the principal and subsequently turned over to the Chief of Police, MAYNARD MANN, at Winter Garden. A short time after that LUTHER was accosted by some white men just outside the Winter Garden Bank and severely beaten around the head and body before he was released. According to T-2, this beating was observed by [REDACTED] in the Parcel Post Section of the Orlando Post Office, and one [REDACTED] (LNU), [REDACTED] in the Air Base Section, Orlando Air Force Base, Orlando, Florida. T-2 stated these two individuals saw the beating and had an opportunity to observe the cars used by the persons administering the beating.

T-2 believed that LUTHER might have been beaten because he was friendly with a girl who is reportedly a close relative or sister of the negro, MELVIN WOMACK, who was shot and killed a short time before the beating of LUTHER. T-2 thought it possible LUTHER was in possession of information to the detriment of the perpetrators of the WOMACK shooting.

In all probability the negro identified as LUTHER is LUTHER COLEMAN, presently residing at Sebring, Florida.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 17, 1952, at Winter Garden and Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: Attempt to locate and interview [redacted] [redacted] nee [redacted] (phonetic) concerning the beating she allegedly received at the hands of Klansmen.

[redacted] was reinterviewed in an effort to determine the present address of [redacted] believed to be [redacted]. At this time [redacted] stated [redacted] was the former [redacted] and that [redacted] is the son of one of [redacted]. He stated that [redacted] were divorced approximately a year ago and to the best of his information [redacted] has remarried within the past four or five weeks. He stated she married a soldier who was stationed at the Orlando Air Force Base and that they had gone somewhere in Virginia. [redacted] stated that [redacted] was definitely one of the two girls who had received a severe beating back in 1944 at the hands of Klansmen in Winter Garden.

He stated he had talked to [redacted] about this beating and had learned that there was a man in Winter Garden whose name he refused to divulge who was attempting to date [redacted]. This man is married and was married at that time and was attempting to date [redacted] for immoral purposes. [redacted] stated [redacted] steadfastly refused to have anything to do with him. A short time after these attempts had been made by the unknown man, [redacted] and her companion, name unknown to [redacted] received their beatings at the Klan's "favorite stomping grounds" near Black Lake. He stated [redacted] had told him there were three businessmen and one doctor, all from Winter Garden, who had been involved in the beating and, according to information he had received from [redacted] she had seen the face of the doctor. He also stated one of them told her after the beating, "After this I'll bet you go out with a married man when he asks you", or words to that effect.

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[redacted] stated he was certain he could learn the name of the soldier [redacted] married and could learn their destination in Virginia. He promised to obtain this information and turn it over to Agents as soon as he received it.

A search was made of the marriage licenses issued for a period of one year at the Orange County Court House, Orlando but no record was found for a license having been issued to [redacted] and an unknown man.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and CLYDE P. ADERHOLD on March 14, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed inasmuch as it was rumored he participated in the beating and shooting of [redacted] negro cab driver, and may have information regarding BROOKLYN and BELVIN. [redacted] admitted former Klansman, advised [redacted] may have knowledge of terrorist activities in Winter Garden.

[redacted] Brantley's Grocery, 203 Central Street, which is located in the negro quarters of Winter Garden, advised he has been [redacted] this store since early fall, 1951.

[redacted] advised that prior to [redacted] the store it was owned by a [redacted] during 1941 and was later bought by [redacted] and then bought from [redacted] by [redacted] from whom [redacted] bought it during the fall of 1951.

He advised [redacted] who is presently employed by the General Electric Company in Schenectady, New York, left Winter Garden sometime during mid-fall, 1950. [redacted] advised that [redacted] prior to his departure from Winter Garden was more or less "bumming around town", unemployed and was usually drinking and playing poker and that at one time several years ago [redacted] was "sent away" temporarily because he was an alcoholic.

[redacted] advised that [redacted] obtained a divorce from [redacted] however, she has retained the name [redacted] and is presently employed as [redacted] for the First National Bank of Winter Garden.

He advised that [redacted] during 1950 owned a 1936 Ford and sometime during the spring or summer of 1950 purchased a 1946 Ford from [redacted] at Winter Garden which he later sold during the fall of 1950 to [redacted] of Tildenville after [redacted] agreed to pay [redacted] \$30.00

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and take over the payments because [redacted] was unable to make the payments on the car.

[redacted] could furnish no further information regarding this 1946 Ford in relation to the description; however, he did remember that [redacted] sold the car shortly before leaving Winter Garden during the fall of 1950.

He denied being at the present time or at any time a member of the Klan and said he was never approached to join the Klan. He claimed he did not know the names of any persons who were connected with the Klan. He denied ever selling bolita; however, he said he understood [redacted] was a bolita operator in the Winter Garden area and he believed [redacted] was probably formerly engaged in bolita sales.

[redacted] stated he never knew [redacted] personally although he had seen him numerous times and knew who he was. He stated that on a few occasions [redacted] had purchased a pack or two of cigarettes at Brantley's Grocery in the negro quarters. He was of the opinion [redacted] was more or less a drifter and not a permanent resident of Winter Garden.

He denied participating in the beating and shooting of [redacted] or [redacted] and claimed he had no information as to who committed these acts. The only information he had concerning these matters was hearsay and "street talk".

[redacted] was questioned concerning his whereabouts on the evening of January 12, 1952 and after he determined that January 12 was Saturday he advised he was in his store, that every Saturday evening he works until 9:00, 10:00 or 11:00 o'clock. He stated it is the custom for his wife and himself to stop by Mrs. HAROLD's cafe after closing the store to get something to eat and from there they usually go home as they have to open the store at 8:00 A. M. on Sunday.

He emphatically denied any participation in local terrorist activities in Winter Garden, particularly in reference to [redacted] and [redacted] and said he had never seen any group of people or any individual taking a negro or white person out to beat.

He advised he knew [redacted] but was not sufficiently familiar with his activities to comment on them and he understood [redacted] owns a recent model General Motors blue body, yellow top pick-up truck and a 1950 Mercury dark green sedan.

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Concerning [redacted] said he has heard both good and bad about him and that he personally does not have any knowledge that [redacted] has been mixed up in any local beatings and terrorist activities and does not know whether or not he is a Klan member; however, he is reasonably sure [redacted] sells liquor illegally after hours in the negro quarters of Winter Garden, usually early Sunday morning, and that approximately three months ago [redacted] was deputized by Winter Garden Police Chief MAYNARD MANN, during which time he, [redacted] purchased illegal liquor after hours in the negro quarters, which information he turned over to MAYNARD MANN; however, nothing was ever done about it. [redacted] said he is quite sure [redacted] buys his liquor from [redacted] at Winter Garden at a slight discount and sells this liquor for anywhere from a small profit to double the usual price for liquor at the negro quarters in various negro juke joints.

[redacted] reiterated that he did not know whether [redacted] are members of the Klan, nor did he have any information concerning terrorist activities on their part in Winter Garden or elsewhere.

He advised that during the last year and a half he has owned the following automobiles:

- 1950 blue Mercury sedan, approximately 3 months
- 1951 light green Mercury two-door, approximately two months
- 1949 Chevrolet pick-up truck, approximately 3 months
- 1949 Oldsmobile sedan, approximately 3 months to the present.

[redacted] admitted owning three shotguns, one being a .410, as well as a German Luger pistol. He was rather hazy as to how he came into possession of these weapons but did state he bought the German Luger in the negro quarters, but claimed he did not remember from whom he bought it. He stated the Luger was not registered and he did not have a permit to carry it; however, he usually kept it in the glove compartment of his car. He claimed he believed this to be legal as he carried large sums of money to the bank several times during the week.

He emphatically denied knowing or ever hearing of TILLMAN H. BELVIN and/or EARL J. BROOKLYN. Photographs of BROOKLYN and BELVIN were exhibited to [redacted] and it was pointed out to him that [redacted] had admitted knowing them for many years; however, [redacted] said he was willing to take a lie detector test to prove he does not know either and that everything he had told the interviewing Agents was the truth and he had nothing to hide.

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[redacted] stated he never heard of HARRY T. MOORE until after MOORE's home was bombed.

He was photographed and the following background information and physical description was obtained through interview and observation:

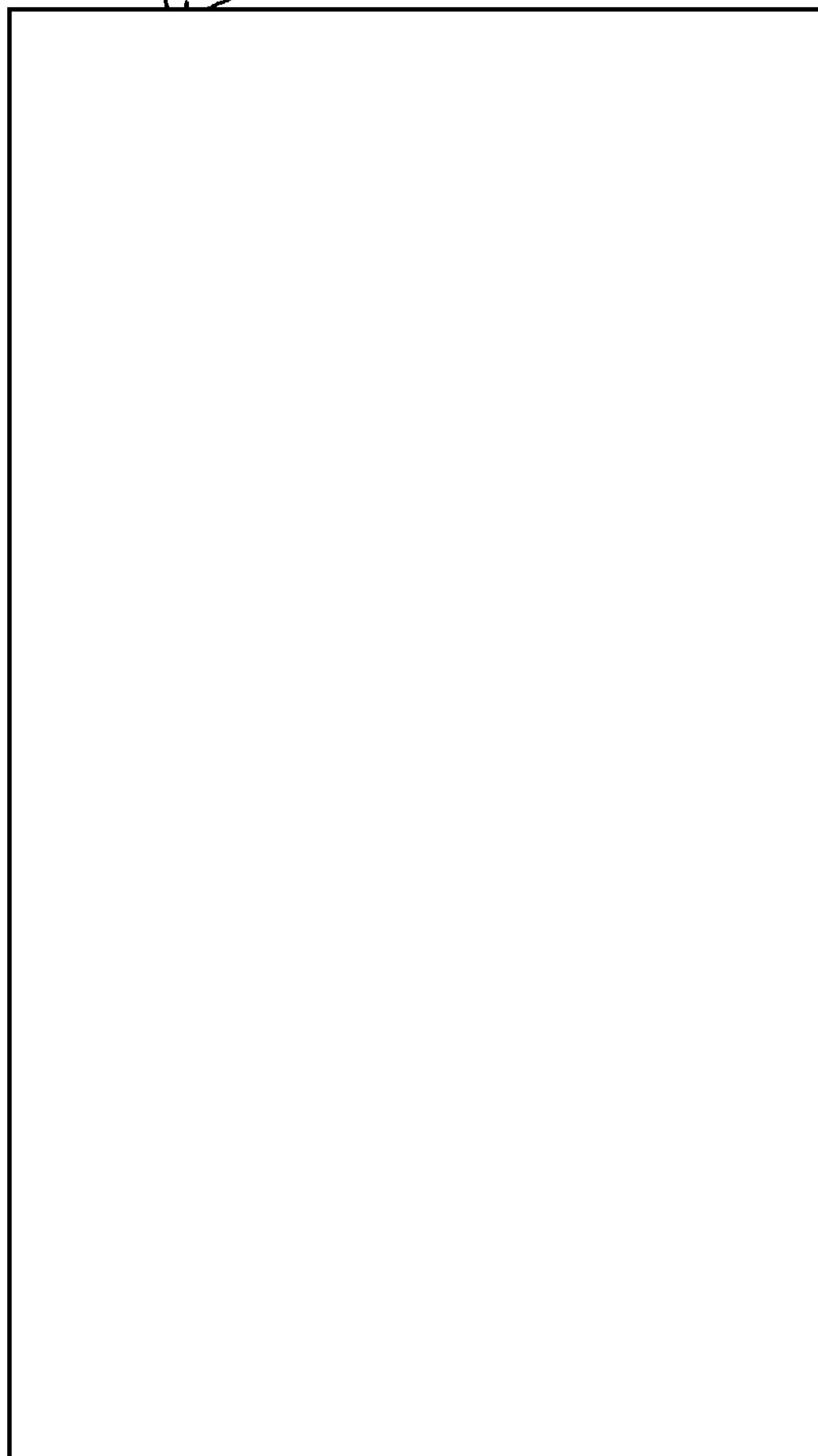
Name
Address

Height
Weight
Birth date
Birthplace
Eyes
Hair
Build
Father
Mother
Wife
Former wife

Brothers

Sisters

Education
Employment



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Military record

Arrest record



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It is noted that MAYNARD MANN, Chief of Police, who is considered reliable, previously advised Agents that [redacted] who was deputized at his own request to clean up general illegal activities in the Winter Garden negro quarters, after operating for a considerable period of time was unable to report any violations of local laws and therefore MANN took away his badge and advised him his services were no longer desired.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 17, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] colored cab driver, interviewed inasmuch as he reportedly was with [redacted] before the latter's beating and shooting on January 12, 1952, at which time [redacted] supposedly cursed a white man.

[redacted] colored cab driver for [redacted] both of whom reside in the colored quarters of Winter Garden, claimed he was sick the day the incident set forth above supposedly occurred. [redacted] stated he had heard that [redacted] was trying to back into a parking space in Winter Garden when his way was blocked by another car driven by a white man. According to [redacted] this occurred January 5, 1952, the Saturday before [redacted] was beaten and shot. He said [redacted] never said anything to him about the incident and that he had only heard of it through street talk. He stated he also believed [redacted] had in the cab one or two passengers but that he never learned the identity of these passengers. In addition [redacted] noted he had been sick the following Saturday, on which date [redacted] was beaten and shot and that [redacted] had been working in his place and had been using [redacted] cab when the beating and shooting occurred. He believed that [redacted] of the cabs, might have learned something from [redacted] concerning this incident which occurred on January 5, 1952.

[redacted] stated [redacted] had never mentioned the incident of January 5, 1952, to him. Concerning the shooting of [redacted] on January 12, 1952, [redacted] stated [redacted] had told him he could identify two of the white men who had attacked him but he did not know their names. In addition, [redacted] stated [redacted] claimed he had seen one of the white men before. He was of the opinion [redacted] trouble originated in Quincy, Florida, as [redacted] had recently arrived in Winter Garden from Quincy.

It should be noted that during the entire interview [redacted] was very evasive and refused to answer such questions as who he believed responsible for the beating of [redacted] and who in Winter Garden might have information concerning this incident.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and [redacted] on March 13, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed for information concerning beating and shooting of [redacted] at Winter Garden on January 12, 1952. According to Confidential Informant, [redacted] was supposed to have had information concerning this crime.

[redacted] employed at the Minute Maid Plant at Plymouth, Florida, and residing at [redacted] Winter Garden, Florida, stated that he had heard rumors that [redacted] ROY GUDGER and [redacted] had beaten and shot [redacted] on the night of January 12, 1952. [redacted] said he had no positive information to this effect and this information was "street talk". According to rumors, [redacted] said [redacted] had wanted to stop [redacted] from driving a taxi because he was hurting [redacted] taxi business. [redacted] explained that [redacted] also hauled colored people in his taxi.

[redacted] stated he had been acquainted with [redacted] and GUDGER for about four or five years and to the best of his memory this was the first time he had ever heard of their being connected with any terrorist activities. [redacted] stated he had received most of this information from [redacted] and that [redacted] resided at Winter Garden.

He stated he was not a member of the Ku Klux Klan in Winter Garden and knew nothing about the terrorist activities in that area.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and FRANK F. MEECH on March 5 and 6, 1952, at Sanford, Florida.

BASIS: Investigation was conducted in order to obtain additional information concerning the [redacted] incident.

[redacted] Chief Deputy Sheriff, Seminole County, made available whatever files which were in existence in the Sheriff's Office concerning the [redacted] incident and the beating of [redacted]. In the file is a letter dated January 5, 1951, addressed to Governor FULLER WARREN of Tallahassee, Florida, signed by G. R. FARNHAM of Route 2, Box 234, Sanford, Florida, in which Mr. FARNHAM who was 67 years of age complained that on December 28, 1950, he was bushwhacked by two men, one of whom held a shotgun on him while the other one gave him an unmerciful beating. He stated he had been given 24 hours to move after this beating and complained about not receiving any cooperation or protection from the Sheriff's Office or the police. This letter had been forwarded by the Governor's Office, Tallahassee, to the Sheriff at Sanford with a small short cover letter. Mr. WHITTEN advised that [redacted] who is the [redacted] of [redacted] [redacted] who employed GEORGE FARNHAM) was arrested for assault in beating FARNHAM. In the file is a letter dated February 5, 1951, in which Sheriff [redacted] of Sanford advised the Governor that [redacted] a white man, had been arrested December 29, 1950, charged with assault and battery on FARNHAM and was out on a \$100.00 bond after being arraigned before the County Judge's Court. Subsequently LLOYD HATCH was sentenced in County Court, Sanford, on April 5, 1951, to pay a fine of \$50.00 and costs on the assault and battery charge. The investigating and arresting officer was former Deputy Sheriff [redacted].

In the Sheriff's file at Sanford was a copy of a letter which had been written by [redacted] to Governor FULLER WARREN on July 15, 1951, in which [redacted] complained of the lack of law enforcement and protection in Sanford. He related in the letter that last August 24 (1950) early in the night six men stopped his truck about a quarter of a mile from his residence, took him by force--left his wife alone in the swamp--after a six or seven mile ride he was severely beaten with a strap and left in the woods

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several miles from anyone's house and told to leave the county in 24 hours. In this letter [redacted] complained that the previous Monday night, July 7, 1951, his house had been burned to the ground. He explained he had left his home to fish at 3:45 P.M., stayed away all night and on returning 10:30 A.M. the next day found his house burned to the ground. This copy of [redacted] letter had been forwarded to Sheriff [redacted] at Sanford with a request for an explanation. By letter dated September 11, 1951, addressed to Mr. [redacted] of the Governor's Staff Sheriff [redacted] stated that the incident involved a family feud between two brothers who lived on Lake Jessup six miles south of Sanford.

[redacted] Florida, the former Deputy Sheriff at Sanford who is presently campaigning for the Sheriff's office was interviewed concerning his knowledge of EARL BROOKLYN and his associates or relatives, concerning the [redacted] incident and also concerning the allegation that a deputy sheriff from Seminole County had been conducting investigation at Apopka, Florida, and Winter Garden, Florida, concerning the [redacted] incident.

[redacted] advised that he conducted an investigation of the [redacted] incident, made no report and kept no notes. He and Sheriff [redacted] worked on it the night of the incident and the next day, particularly in the vicinity of Lake Jessup and Lake Mary. He insisted that he had never been over in the Apopka or Winter Garden area in the course of this investigation. He advised that [redacted] indicated to him that [redacted] knew two of the men who beat him. As far as [redacted] could recall neither of the two men were from Winter Garden or Apopka but he does not recall whether or not [redacted] actually told him the names of these two men. [redacted] advised he was not acquainted with EARL BROOKLYN but did know there was a BROOKLYN family living on Lake Mary, one of the young men in the family being a professional pitcher for the Cocoa baseball team and his father being employed in a grove near Lake Mary. When questioned about a [redacted] [redacted] advised he knew him, that he resided on [redacted] leading from Sanford to Orlando across from [redacted] was in the [redacted] business with [redacted] [redacted] had come from West Orange County from somewhere in the area of Apopka in 1931 or 1932 to reside in the Sanford area. The family and their associates were troutline fishermen who were frequently engaged in bootlegging in fish. [redacted] was the driver of the car in which [redacted] and others were riding when they were run out of the National Forest near Ocala for illegal deer hunting. [redacted] is supposed to have paid a fine at Ocala. According to [redacted] [redacted] married [redacted]

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[redacted] believed that it might possibly have been [redacted] who was the former [redacted] who went to Apopka and Winter Garden to investigate the [redacted] incident. However, [redacted] is related to LLOYD HATCH. [redacted] is [redacted] on the Lutchahatchee (phonetic) Ranch on Cheney Highway near the St. Johns River and Taylor Creek.

[redacted] of Sanford, Florida, was reinterviewed and advised that the two men that he could positively identify in his beating were [redacted] and FLOYD HESTER. HESTER was sent up to Raiford for stealing cattle with [redacted] some time ago and has a curved scar on the side of his face.

He further related it wasn't until after the beating that he saw this FLOYD HESTER in the pool room next to Joe's Smoke House, recognized him as one of the men who had been involved in the beating and inquired about him. HESTER works at the Gulf Gas Station with [redacted] and is described as follows:

Age	42
Height	5'8"
Weight	150
Hair	brown

At one time he operated a gambling joint which was closed up by the sheriff. He believed that an individual named [redacted] might have been one of the individuals involved in the beating and might have been the one who had a big mahogany stick or blackjack which he used to beat him. He believes that there were six white men in the group which stood around him as he received his beating and there might have been one or more in the cars at the time. He never did see the man who was guarding his wife. Again he stated that all were fairly young and slight in build except one. On the night of the beating after the beating he took a trip over to Apopka with [redacted] who was then Deputy Sheriff and went to the Orange County Deputy Sheriff in Apopka and to the Apopka Police to see if he could identify and locate one of the cars involved in his beating. One of the cars was a light grey or green with Chevrolet or Plymouth, having perpendicular red stripes running down between the chrome of the radiator. [redacted] believed that the car might have gone over toward Apopka and thought one of the individuals might have come from Apopka. (It should be noted that former Deputy Sheriff [redacted] has been interviewed and denied ever conducting investigation into this incident in Apopka or Winter Garden.)

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After he and [redacted] contacted the Deputy Sheriff for Orange County at Apopka the three of them travelled around to view the cars parked outside most of the juke joints near Apopka until closing time. At no time did they go over to the Winter Garden area but returned to Sanford about 1:00 A.M. after having been out in the Apopka area from about 10:30 P.M.

[redacted] also believed that it was possible that one [redacted] who was now in the Naval Air Station at Green Cove Springs and is [redacted] might have been involved in the beating because he had a history of being involved in such violence about fifteen or twenty years ago when [redacted] had been beaten. At the time [redacted] spoke to Sheriff [redacted] shortly after his beating he asked the sheriff to call the Naval Air Station to find out whether [redacted] was on duty there but the sheriff never made the requested call. LLOYD HATCH was at the [redacted] home on the afternoon of the day that [redacted] received his beating and it was not until 11:00 P.M. that the HATCH family returned home. [redacted] who operates the Gulf Station at Park and Second Street in Sanford and is an ex-game warden and Sergeant [redacted] were at LLOYD HATCH's place on Lake Jessup the night that [redacted] received his beating. When [redacted] told the sheriff it was the Ku Klux Klan who beat him Sheriff [redacted] "swore up and down" that it was not done by the Klan.

The photographs of suspects and other Klansmen available to date were exhibited to [redacted] but he was unable to identify any photograph as being that of a person involved in the beating. He believed that he had seen [redacted] at a gathering at [redacted] place at one time.

[redacted] escorted the interviewing Agents to the approximate location where he received his beating. The dirt road to which he was driven after being taken from his car and his wife is located one mile from Highway 17-92, the junction of which roads is two miles from Lake Mary. He explained that when he was carried off he was still pretty groggy from being struck on the head. He was taken out into a clearing off the dirt road about 100 feet from the road, had most of his clothes torn off and was beaten by three men who took turns wielding a wide strap. He had to walk all the way to Five Points before he was able to receive any assistance after this beating. All this time his wife had been trying unsuccessfully to obtain assistance from the Sheriff's Office in Sanford.

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[redacted] further related that a fire insurance investigator named [redacted] from Jacksonville, Florida, investigated the burning of his home. This investigator used a pretext call to [redacted] home in order to obtain the address of [redacted] who was allegedly at LLOYD HATCH's during the time of the beating.

[redacted] viewed the photographs of suspects and various Klansmen presently available but was unable to identify any of them as being in the group which beat [redacted]

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and FRANK F. MEECH on March 10, 1952, at Sanford, Florida.

BASIS: LLOYD HATCH interviewed inasmuch as [redacted] [redacted] victim of a beating and arson of his home, had considerable difficulty with HATCH and believed HATCH had direct knowledge of the beating and arson. It was learned through a confidential source that HATCH was supposed to be the alibi for suspect J.B. JOHNSON on Christmas day, 1951. HATCH was a member of the Orlando Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans and old associate of suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN.

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LLOYD HATCH was interviewed at his home located on the west end of Lake Jessup, approximately six miles south of Sanford, Florida. His mailing address is Post Office Box 1163. He advised he has been a member of the Orlando Klavern of the Ku Klux Klan for about one year. He admitted the Exalted Cyclops of his Klavern is [redacted]

HATCH stated he has known EARL J. BROOKLYN for more than ten years and has known [redacted] and has been closely associated with him practically all his life. He stated he did not remember who recruited him into the Klan and he has not been a member in regular attendance since he joined.

He is personally acquainted with JAMES B. [redacted] JOHNSON, has been friends with these individuals for a number of years and frequently visits in their homes.

Concerning the beating of [redacted] he stated he recalled arriving home late one evening and seeing [redacted] truck parked on the dirt road leading to Lake Jessup with the lights burning. At the same time he saw an automobile approaching him with a blinking red light and recalled remarking to his wife that someone must be sick as it looked like an ambulance approaching. He stated he pulled up and stopped and [redacted] a Deputy Sheriff of Seminole County, approached him and told him he wanted him for questioning inasmuch as [redacted] had been taken out in the woods

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and beaten. HATCH stated he observed [] that night and from his actions he did not believe he had been beaten and he showed no visible signs of a beating. HATCH said he believed the beating was merely a figment of [] imagination.

Concerning the burning of [] house, HATCH denied any knowledge whatsoever of the incident. Concerning his association with [] he said he and [] had been friends for a number of years but had "fallen out" over some fishing matter. Later he learned [] was endeavoring to buy the land where HATCH's fishing camp was located from one [] who was owner at that time. In regard to the land on which his fishing camp is located HATCH stated it previously belonged to his grandfather and thereafter came into possession of [] Upon learning that [] was endeavoring to buy the place from under him he contacted [] and agreed to buy the land for \$500.00. He stated he thereafter learned that [] again contacted [] and tried to buy the place by raising the price offered by HATCH but HATCH succeeded in purchasing the land at the first figure.

[] He stated since that time he has had nothing to do with []

HATCH denied having any knowledge whatsoever of any other terrorist activities in the Orlando area.

Specifically concerning EARL J. BROOKLYN, HATCH stated he did not know anything about BROOKLYN engaging in terrorist activities, although he knew BROOKLYN to be a member of the Klan.

Concerning HARRY T. MOORE, HATCH denied knowing anything about the case and stated the first time he ever heard of MOORE was the day after Christmas when he returned home from Tavares and heard an announcement over the radio.

Regarding his personal activities on Christmas Day, he stated he and [] along with [] [] arose approximately 9:00 A.M. He stated [] age [] and [] age [] were visiting the HATCH home and were present Christmas morning. On Christmas Eve he had slaughtered a hog for a barbecue to be held at his home Christmas Day. At approximately 9:30 A.M. he started the fire to barbecue the meat and was in the process of preparing the barbecue when his neighbor, [] arrived at about 11:00

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to assist him. As well as he can recall, a short time later [redacted] arrived and assisted in the barbecue. According to HATCH, guests began to arrive at approximately 1:00 and a crowd of approximately 25 people assembled at his fishing camp to take part in the barbecue. Regarding the guests, as well as he can recall the following persons were present:

[redacted] and his family, employee of the Sherman Concrete Pipe Company in Sanford.

[redacted]
Two sailors, one of whom was [redacted] and the other known as [redacted] who was accompanied by [redacted] and later married her.

[redacted] who live near Mobley's Trailer Court on the Sanford Highway.

[redacted] and [redacted] of Daytona Beach [redacted] is engaged in construction work and since the barbecue he and his wife have separated and [redacted] was last heard of in Tampa, Florida.

The constable from Oviedo whose name HATCH can not recall.

J. B. JOHNSON and his family from Colonialtown, a section of Orlando.

HATCH stated he was unable to recall any of the other persons present.

When questioned as to whether EARL J. BROOKLYN attended the barbecue, HATCH hesitated and said he did not remember, later stating he was sure BROOKLYN was not there.

He further advised that the group assembled at his residence, remained there until about 8:00 P.M. when they began to leave. He recalls that shortly after sundown [redacted] and his family departed, taking with them [redacted] who was going to the [redacted] home to spend a few days with the [redacted] children. According to HATCH, [redacted] and his family were some of the last to leave the barbecue, [redacted] and his family being the last. He and his wife accompanied the [redacted] to their home where they spent the remainder of Christmas night eating and drinking at the [redacted] residence until approximately 11:30 when they returned home.

In regard to other persons invited to the barbecue HATCH stated he recalls he invited [redacted] but [redacted] was unable to attend as he had to go on a trip to Lakeland.

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Concerning the information previously furnished that [redacted] and LLOYD HATCH had beaten [redacted] caretaker, [redacted] HATCH admitted he personally had given [redacted] a beating. He said the beating was predicated upon the fact [redacted] shot a couple of HATCH's dogs. He approached [redacted] asking if he had shot the dogs to which [redacted] replied, "No, I have not shot your dogs and you get out of here." HATCH then beat [redacted] and was subsequently arrested and charged with assault and battery in Seminole County, for which he was sentenced to a fine of \$50.00 and costs. He denied that [redacted] held a shotgun on [redacted] while he beat him.

The following is a description of LLOYD HATCH (full name) as obtained from observation and interview:

Name	LLOYD HATCH, aka Loyd Hatch
Address	Route 2, P.O. Box 1163, Sanford, Florida
Age	38
Birthplace	April 28, 1913
Birthplace	Seminole County, Florida
Height	5'8"
Weight	185
Hair	light brown, bald on top
Eyes	blue-grey
Scars and marks	vertical 1 1/2" cut scar on bridge of nose between eyebrows; jagged 1" cut scar front right side of chin; face appears pock-marked due to cuts received in auto accident
Occupation	welder and fisherman
Employer	Olson Corporation, near DeLand, Fla.
Wife	[redacted] employed shipping department, Florida Fashions, Orlando, Florida
Daughter	[redacted]
Military service	none
Father	FRANK HATCH, deceased
Sister	[redacted]
Education	[redacted]
Arrest record	Tavares, Florida, violation game laws-- illegal fishing, presently under bond. Admits 4 arrests for illegal fishing

TEM/FFM:egh
MM 44-270

Automobiles owned

1950 Henry J, bronze-maroon, 1952
Florida tag 17D-102;
Model A Ford truck, painted yellow
with orange fenders, 1952 Florida
tag 17D-231.

Photographs in various poses were voluntarily furnished by
LLOYD HATCH.

PCC/GPA:egh
MM 44-270

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents PRUE C. CLINKSCALES and CLYDE P. ADERHOLD on February 10, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: Information furnished by Deputy Sheriff [redacted] NA, Orange County Sheriff's Office, that Patrolman [redacted] of the Winter Garden Police Department might furnish information regarding unknown individuals who beat and shot [redacted] at Winter Garden approximately two years ago.

Patrolman [redacted] of the Winter Garden Police Department advised that approximately two years ago he put a negro boy named [redacted] into the Winter Garden City Jail at the request of [redacted]. [redacted] explained that on the day [redacted] was put in jail [redacted] had been contacted by Patrolman WILLIE WELCH, now deceased, and WELCH told him [redacted] had caught [redacted] who worked in [redacted] barber shop stealing his pistol. [redacted] said this was approximately 5:30 P.M., exact date unknown, and that he telephoned Chief of Police MAYNARD MANN and asked if it would be satisfactory for him to put [redacted] in jail at the request of [redacted]. He was told that [redacted] could obtain a warrant for [redacted] the following day. [redacted] then went to [redacted] barber shop and took [redacted] into custody and placed him in the City Jail.

At approximately 9:30 P.M. the same day [redacted] came to [redacted] and requested that [redacted] be released inasmuch as he had decided not to prosecute [redacted]. At the time [redacted] contacted him, [redacted] said he was checking doors in the business section of Winter Garden and continued around the block. Later he went to the jail to release [redacted]. No one was with [redacted] at the time he requested [redacted] release. [redacted] stated further that he went downstairs at the city hall where the jail is located and released [redacted] from a cell. He told [redacted] he was not going to be prosecuted and could go home. He did not follow [redacted] out of the jail as he was checking the plumbing in jail cells, a routine practice on instructions of the Chief of Police.

PCC/CPA:egh
MM 44-270

[redacted] did not know anything had happened to [redacted] after he left the jail until the following morning. He said that at the time someone whose identity he could not recall had told him a group of white men had taken [redacted] out to the woods and shot and beaten him. He also advised that during the time he was walking toward the jail and immediately after leaving the jail he saw no suspicious persons and that the only person who had contacted him regarding [redacted] had been [redacted]

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [redacted] on March 12, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed as he was formerly employed by [redacted] as taxi driver.

[redacted] who is presently employed by Mac's Service Station, West Plant Avenue, stated he had formerly worked for [redacted] as a [redacted] and thereafter for [redacted] as a [redacted]

He stated he is not and has never been a member of any of the various Klaverns of the Klan in Orange County or elsewhere. [redacted] stated he knew no Klan members.

Concerning [redacted] he stated he has never had any trouble with him and knows of no trouble in which [redacted] has been involved although he has heard through community talk that [redacted] is sometimes hard to get along with.

His comments concerning [redacted] were of a similar nature. He recalled there was some difficulty at the time [redacted] was courting [redacted] the present [redacted] and that [redacted] had been severely beaten about that time. He was unable to state, however, whether [redacted] was connected with this beating. He did not know who was responsible for the beating.

[redacted] stated he had never heard anything about [redacted] having anything to do with narcotics except that [redacted] had told him that [redacted] was "dabbling in dope".

He stated one [redacted] presently residing in Fort Pierce or Fort Myers, Florida, who has [redacted] employed by the Florida telephone Company at Winter Garden, was a former close friend of [redacted] but broke off with [redacted] at the time of the above mentioned beating of [redacted]. According to [redacted] is angry at [redacted] and may furnish information concerning the beating of [redacted]

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MM 44-270

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and [redacted] on March 12, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed for information he might have concerning the beating of [redacted] [redacted] is reported to have seen the LaSalle automobile used in this beating.

[redacted] Florida, employed at the Ison Service Station, Winter Garden, Florida, advised he had been living in Ocoee since about 1941. [redacted] stated he has never been a member of the Ku Klux Klan and knows nothing concerning its activities in the Winter Garden area. He advised he knew nothing about the [redacted] case except what [redacted] told him about an automobile that had been used by the men who beat him. [redacted] recalled [redacted] told him these men had ridden in a yellow two-door LaSalle automobile. [redacted] asked him to be on the lookout for this car and that if he saw such a car he was to immediately advise [redacted]

[redacted] remembered that approximately one month after [redacted] told him this he saw a yellow LaSalle drive past the Ison Service Station. He said there were three men in this car but he did not think to get the license number. He did not know the men in the car. He said he immediately advised [redacted] of this and he did not know what [redacted] had done about it.

[redacted] could give no information concerning the MOORE case and stated he only knew about it from the newspapers.

He was specifically questioned as to whether or not he had ever driven [redacted] to Orlando, Florida, to observe a green LaSalle automobile parked behind the Holler Chevrolet Company. [redacted] stated he had never driven [redacted] to any place at any time and that he had not taken [redacted] to Orlando for that purpose. He also stated he knew nothing concerning a Florida license number [redacted] supposedly checked with the Florida Highway Patrol.

FFM:egh
MM 44-270

BASIS: For record purposes information received from T-9, [redacted] set out.

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The substance of information received from Confidential Informant T-9, of known reliability, covering Ku Klux Klan activities in Apopka, Florida, is that on December 25, 1951, [redacted] and [redacted] both of Apopka, Florida, were discovered by persons unknown attempting to bomb a negro cafe and beer garden called "Little Harlem" in the negro section of Apopka; further, that Little Harlem is owned and operated by a white couple who were allegedly trying to serve both white and colored patrons in the establishment. The informant stated both [redacted] were known members of the Klan, that [redacted] moved to Apopka from Miami, Florida, about five years ago. [redacted] a resident of Apopka for many years, was involved in a Ku Klux Klan mob beating and killing of a negro man near Tampa, Florida, in the early 1940s. In this regard [redacted] of Apopka, formerly of Clarcona, Florida, was tried and acquitted of the murder charge because of insufficient evidence.

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Concerning the above information it was learned in the conduct of the investigation of instant case that an attempt had been made to blow up the Little Harlem Cafe, located in the negro quarters at Apopka, Florida. Subsequent investigation determined that Little Harlem was owned by [redacted] and that an actual attempt had been made to blow up the place on or about December 20, 1951, by turning on the gas jets on the stove and lighting a candle which was placed on the floor with the apparent purpose in mind of igniting the gas when the building became sufficiently filled to cause an explosion.

Investigation does not substantiate the information set forth by the informant to the effect that [redacted] were discovered attempting to bomb the cafe. [redacted] as far as is known, does not figure in this incident in any way. However, [redacted] was supposed to have made a statement in a tavern in Apopka to the effect that the place would be blown up if [redacted] did not get out of business there.

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[redacted] is a member of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Apopka. No information has been developed to date indicating that [redacted] is now or ever has been a member of the Klan.

It is pointed out that no information has been developed in instant case to the effect that [redacted] was involved in the killing of a negro man near Tampa in the early 1940s; however, there is some indication that [redacted] was involved in some manner in this killing.

JPS:egh
MM 44-270

V. MISCELLANEOUS

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and FRANK F. MEECH on March 7, 1952.

BASIS: Inasmuch as it is possible that persons who committed instant crime might have used as an escape route the Mims-Sanford Road, the bridgetender of the bridge over the St. Johns River was interviewed.

CHARLES C. SINGLETARRY, 89 years of age, the bridgetender for many years until about eight months ago of the wooden bridge over the St. Johns River on the Mims-Sanford Road advised he was not at the bridge where he customarily resides but was in Palm Beach over the Christmas holidays, 1951.

[redacted] who have a fish camp on the St. Johns River adjacent to the above described bridge were interviewed concerning any unusual occurrences or incident Christmas night, 1951 but were unable to furnish any information of interest to this investigation.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 18, 1952, at Titusville, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] reinterviewed concerning details of car seen by him near the victims' home shortly after 9:00 P.M., December 25, 1951, and its white occupant.

On reinterview [redacted] repeated his original statements to the effect he had seen a car parked on the east side of the Old Dixie Highway directly in front of victim MOORE's house a few minutes after 9:00 P.M., December 25, 1951. He stated that as he approached the car, the occupant turned on the bright lights which blinded him. He immediately blinked his lights and the car's bright lights were turned out and the parking lights turned on. At the same time the car started moving in a northerly direction along the Old Dixie Highway. At the time he passed the car at a point approximately 25 to 30 yards north of the line running directly east from MOORE's house, he was able to observe only one white man in the car. Concerning the speed of [redacted] car he stated he estimated he was travelling between twenty and twenty-five miles an hour at the time. He emphasized he was very uncertain as to this speed and believed he might have been going even slower because of the ground fog and poor visibility. He was certain, however, that the occupant of the other car was a white man. He was unable to recall any features of this individual or any peculiarities about him. He stated to the best of his recollection the car was a Ford of a late model, possibly a four-door sedan, dark in color. He was unable to recall any further details concerning this car.

[redacted] was directly questioned about the visibility and the blinding effect the car's lights had had on him and his subsequent ability to recognize the occupant of the car as a white man. [redacted] stated the only thing he could recall was that the lights first blinded him, causing him to blink his lights and that the bright lights had subsequently been turned off and the parking lights turned on on the other car. He stated this action on the part of the other driver in all probability had enabled him to see the occupant of the car more clearly so that he could determine that the occupant was a white man.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] on February 22 and 25, 1952, at Clearwater, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] of the Progressive Voters League at Clearwater, interviewed for any information he might have regarding MOORE.

[redacted] advised he has known victim HARRY T. MOORE as Executive Secretary of the NAACP and also as Executive Secretary of the Progressive Voters League.

[redacted] of the Progressive Voters League from 1946 to 1950; however, in the spring of 1950 he left the Progressive Voters League due to a split over the SMATHERS-PEPPER senatorial campaign. At that time the Progressive Voters League desired to endorse PEPPER and [redacted] stated it was his belief the League should endorse no candidate but merely strive to get out the vote. He stated there was no hard feeling over his split from the League. [redacted] the Florida State Voters League and is presently [redacted] of that group, the purpose of which is to get out the vote and not to endorse any candidate.

He stated he has not seen MOORE since the summer of 1949 during which time [redacted] was teaching at Bethune-Cookman Collage at Daytona Beach, Florida, when MOORE came to the college to visit his daughter who was a teacher there.

[redacted] stated he is not a member of the NAACP although he is a former member but has not been active for the past six years and is not in good standing as far as his dues are concerned. He stated he has no idea who may have committed the crime resulting in HARRY T. MOORE's death. He worked closely with MOORE from 1946 to 1950 but has had no association with him since that time. He stated he holds a very high regard for MOORE and has never heard of any threats having been made against MOORE, nor did MOORE ever express any concern in his presence for his safety. [redacted] stated that if any information comes to his attention which would aid in this case he would furnish same to the FBI.

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In this connection it should be noted that [redacted] has been most cooperative on the occasions of both interviews: and when originally questioned about his having seen a car in the vicinity of the MOORE house, [redacted] immediately came forward with the statement that he had positively seen the car and made every effort to determine the exact time he had seen the car.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] on March 17, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] advised that during the time the Florida Klan in Orlando was operating it arranged for the Orange County Circuit Court at Orlando to issue a charter to it for the Century Club which was to hold title to the clubhouse and other property of the Klan.

Book 8, page 275, Orange County Incorporation and Limited Partnership Records, on file in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Orange County Court House, reflects a proposed charter of the Century Club filed in the Office of the Circuit Court of Orange County on February 7, 1944.

The name of the corporation was described as the Century Club which was to be located in Orange County, Florida.

The general nature and object of this corporation was to promote good fellowship between the members.

Qualification of members was that they be upright, true, loyal, native-born American citizens of good morals and decent habits.

The term for which this corporation was to exist was listed as perpetual.

The names and residences of the subscribers were listed as follows:

[redacted]	Orlando	[redacted]	Orlando
[redacted]	Orlando	[redacted]	Orlando
[redacted]	Orlando	[redacted]	Orlando
[redacted]	Orlando	[redacted]	Orlando

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The affairs of the corporation were to be managed by a Board of Directors of not less than three or more than seven members who were to be elected annually on the first Monday in January of each year.

The Directors were to have the right to elect a president and secretary to act for the corporation in the business of the execution of its contracts.

The Directors were listed as follows:

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	J. N. COX

was to act as president and J. N. COX was to act as secretary. Both of these men were to manage all the affairs of the corporation until the first election or appointment under the charter.

The by-laws of the corporation were to be made, altered or repealed by a vote of membership at any regular or called meeting of the corporation.

The highest amount of indebtedness to which the corporation was to indent itself was \$50,000.00 and was never to be greater than two-thirds of the value of the property of the corporation.

The amount in value in real estate to which the corporation could hold subject to approval of the Circuit Judge was listed as \$20,000.00.

who was listed as a subscriber to the foregoing charter acknowledged that the executed instrument was for the purpose stated therein which was notarized January 20, 1944.

also swore before a Notary Public on the same date that the above mentioned charter was intended in good faith to carry out the purposes and objects therein set forth.

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MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 17 and March 10, 1952, at [redacted] Florida.

BASIS: SIMON SMITH ~~MANNING~~ reinterviewed to obtain a signed statement as to his Klan membership, criminal record and oath in federal employment.

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On January 17, 1952, MANNING was interviewed at the Orlando Resident Agency by Special Agents MEECH and SHANNON, at which time he advised that EARL J. BROOKLYN had approached him four or five years ago, in 1947 or 1948, and asked him to join the Ku Klux Klan. It is to be noted that at this time there was only known to be in existence one Klavern of the Klan, that covering the territory of Orlando-Winter Garden. It is also to be pointed out that upon the initial interview MANNING said to the best of his recollection he was recruited in 1947 or 1948 and during this time the only Klan in existence was affiliated with the Association of Georgia Klans. However, in a signed statement obtained from MANNING on March 10, 1952, he stated it was in 1945 when he was affiliated with the Klan and during this period the only known Klan was chartered under the Florida State Ku Klux Klan.

MANNING advised he had filled out an application and paid a \$10.00 initiation fee to join what he called the West Orange Branch of the Ku Klux Klan. He claimed he had attended only three meetings of the Klan and at none of these meetings was he ever officially taken into membership.

On February 18, 1952, [redacted] Civil Service Clerk at the Orlando Air Force Base, Orlando, Florida, made available the personnel file of SIMON SMITH MANNING which reflected he resigned of his own volition on February 4, 1952, his last work day at the Air Force Base being February 8, 1952. His separation form indicated he resigned his position to "obtain a better job outside government work".

SIMON SMITH MANNING gave the following voluntary signed statement on March 10, 1952, to Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and [redacted] [redacted] at his residence in Flagler County, Bunnell, Florida.

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"Bunnell, Fla.
Flagler County
March 10, 1952

"I, SIMON SMITH MANNING make the following voluntary statement to TOBIAS E. MATTHEWS and FRANK F. MEECH who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to get me to make this statement. I realize I do not have to make a statement and any statement I make can be used against me in a court of law. I have been advised I am entitled to have an attorney.

"I was first employed at the Orlando Air Base on May 5, 1943 and worked there until Oct. 1949. I applied for re-employment in January, 1951 and recall signing the application for federal employment -- appointment affidavit. To the best of my recollection the form was filled out by a woman stenographer in the office at the air base. I recall her asking me if I belonged to an organization that would overthrow the government. I told her I did not nor had never been.

"The same stenographer asked me if I had been convicted of a crime by the state or the federal government and I told her no. I knew at that time that I had been convicted of grand larceny in Orange County and in the Orange County Court. I thought this court was different from the state and federal court and that is why I didn't tell her about my conviction in the Orange County Court.

"Concerning my connection with the Ku Klux Klan I wish to say that in 1945 as well as I can recall I signed an application that was brought to me by EARL BROOKLYN. I gave him ten dollars and attended two or three meetings. I was never sworn in, nor told the secrets nor given the oath.

"I have read the above statement of this page and two other pages and put my initials on each page. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge

"/s/ SIMON SMITH MANNING

"Witnessed

/s/ FRANK F. MEECH Spec. Agt. FBI 3/10/52

/s/ Special Agent F.B.I. 3/10/52"

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 11, 1952, at Winter Park, Florida.

BASIS: Confidential Informants T-5 and T-6, [redacted]

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[redacted] interviewed concerning Klan activities in connection with instant bombing and information concerning suspects BROOKLYN, BELVIN and others.

Confidential Informant T-5, of known reliability, advised that [redacted] in about 1945 or 1946 one [redacted] was the Exalted Cyclops of the Association of Georgia Klans in Orlando which was then known as the Century Club. During the time [redacted] was Exalted Cyclops he resigned and ceased to affiliate himself with the Klan or its activities.

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T-5 stated that [redacted] a Klansman in the Winter Park-Orlando area, during the last war worked for a wholesale grocery company and was caught embezzling funds, at which time he was fired. Since that time he has worked at the Winter Park A & P grocery. [redacted] was Exalted Cyclops of the Association of Georgia Klans Klavern in Orlando and around 1947 or 1948 was head of the Klokann Committee of the same organization. T-5 said [redacted] is one of the "hottest" members of the organization at present and that he is capable of doing anything along terrorist lines. He expressed the opinion that [redacted] has been responsible for most of the cross burning activities of the Klan in the Winter Park-Orlando area in recent years. Based on this opinion, informant stated he believed [redacted] is head of the Klokann Committee of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, or at least a member of the committee.

He advised that [redacted] was at one time on the Klokann Committee of the Southern Knights along with [redacted] and is considered "red hot".

[redacted] T-5 stated he is "worse than [redacted] He advised [redacted] would do anything of a terrorist nature. He stated if the

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Klan had any part in instant bombing it was his opinion that [redacted] was in on it. In reference to [redacted] T-5 repeatedly stated "he will do anything".

[redacted] is a member of the Southern Knights and is a good friend of [redacted]. [redacted] were referred to by T-5 as being capable of doing any sort of terrorist act.

JOE N. COX is still a member of the Klan and although he is an old man T-5 believes he may know something about the activities of the Klan in and around the Winter Park-Orlando area.

6 EARL J. BROOKLYN is described as capable of any terrorist act and a mean individual.

JAMES B. JOHNSON was head of the Klokann Committee at one time and, according to T-5, if he is given one drink he, too, would be capable of any terrorist act. He said JOHNSON has gotten into difficulties on the east coast of Florida for beating two young boys.

TILLMAN H. BELVIN was very active in the Klan in the past. T-5 did not know of his recent activities but stated he does not have good sense.

[redacted] is one of the old-time members of the Florida Klan and it is not known whether he is presently active in the Klan.

[redacted] of the Criminal Court, Orlando, is a Klansman, as is [redacted] of Winter Park.

[redacted] of Winter Park, is a Klansman. In regard to [redacted] T-5 stated he recalled an incident wherein a former Baptist minister in the city of Winter Park had allowed the children of the colored janitor of the church to attend church services along with the white children. [redacted] reportedly expressed the desire to have [redacted] burn a cross in front of the minister's home. Informant stated, however, that this was never done because [redacted] expressed this desire in the presence of Chief of Police [redacted] who severely rebuked [redacted] and told him he would not allow such activities in Winter Park.

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T-6, [redacted] Florida, and presently a

[redacted] furnished the following information concerning individuals brought to his attention in the course of the interview:

[redacted] believed to be a member of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

[redacted] Presently Exalted Cyclops of Klavern 348, Association of Georgia Klans.

[redacted] known to informant only by sight.

[redacted] the Klokann Committee, Klavern 348, during calendar year 1951, probably also for 1952.

[redacted] Klavern 348.

EARL J. BROOKLYN: ~~act~~ presently associated with any Klavern known to informant. Formerly associated with the Association of Georgia Klans.

[redacted] presently associated with Klavern 348.

JAMES B. JOHNSON: presently a member of Klavern 348, Association of Georgia Klans.

[redacted] unknown to informant.

TILLMAN H. BELVIN: believed not actively associated with any Klan group at the present time and for several years past.

[redacted] present member of Klavern 348.

The informant was questioned concerning other individuals whose names have come up in the course of instant investigation as being connected with one of the various Klans in and around Orange County. Concerning these individuals T-6 stated he either did not know them or knew them only by sight and was not acquainted with their Klan connections, if any.

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MM 44-270

T-6 stated he could think of no one in the Association of Georgia Klans who would be capable of bombing the MOORE house. He also stated he was not familiar with the membership of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Informant stated he had never seen any floor plans of victim MOORE's home and MOORE was never, to his knowledge, discussed at any of the meetings or by any members during or after meetings.

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[redacted] Fort Gatlin Hotel, 545 North Orange
Avenue.

[redacted] Jefferson Court Hotel, 140
North Orange Avenue.

[redacted] San Juan Hotel, 32 North Orange
Avenue.

[redacted] Lamar Hotel, 409 West Central Avenue.

[redacted] Orange Court Hotel, 650
North Orange Avenue.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] on March 18, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted]

Association of Georgia Klans, indicted on February 27, 1952, for bombing a negro house at Atlanta, Georgia, advised Agents in Atlanta he made 3 trips to Florida in 1951; however, he did not visit Orlando although his name appeared in a newspaper release as having attended an Orlando Klan meeting on August 19, 1951, which he was unable to attend.

[redacted] Library of Orlando's only daily newspapers, the Orlando Morning Sentinel and Orlando Evening Star, searched the morgue indices of the papers but were unable to locate the name [redacted] or any name similar thereto as pertaining to Klan activities.

All morgue clippings on the Ku Klux Klan, BILL HENDRIX and [redacted] covering a period from September, 1949 to the present were reviewed but the name [redacted] was not mentioned in any article pertaining to Klan activities. Microfilm records of newspapers for the entire month of August, 1951 were reviewed; however, the name [redacted] did not appear in any news article for this period.

The hotel registers of the leading Orlando hotels were reviewed for the entire year of 1951; however, the name [redacted] did not appear on any of these registers.

The following individuals representing various Orlando hotels were contacted:

[redacted]
Angebilt Hotel, 37 North Orange Avenue.

[redacted] Eola Plaza, 431 East Central Avenue.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 11, 1952, at Winter Park, Florida.

BASIS: W. O. ~~RENCHER~~ reported to have been the organizer of the Winter Garden Klan and might have knowledge of terrorist activities, of suspects BROOKLYN, BELVIN and others.

While contacting Confidential Informant T-5, of known reliability, concerning individuals connected with the Winter Park section of the Ku Klux Klan, it was learned that WILLIAM O. ~~RENCHER~~ who resides in Winter Park is now an old man, senile and mentally unstable.

In view of this information, no further attempt was made to interview ~~RENCHER~~.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 10, 1952, at Apopka, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed for any information he might have of Klan activities or of suspects BROOKLYN and BELVIN and to ascertain if he is a relative of [redacted] Miami Klansman.

[redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] located on the corner of [redacted] At the time of the interview [redacted] stated he has not been and is not now a member of any Klan. He stated he had been approached to join the Klan about a year ago. He was first approached by a [redacted] and a short time later by [redacted] the son-in-law of [redacted] He mentioned that [redacted] is at the present time a member of the [redacted]

During the interview [redacted] was extremely cooperative and appeared desirous of being of any possible assistance in instant investigation. He noted, however, that his sympathies did not lie with the Klan and that he had therefore steadfastly refused to have anything to do with it at any time. It was his opinion that easily 75% of the male population of Apopka was connected with the Klan in one way or another. It was his opinion [redacted] of Apopka, is the leading Klansman in Apopka. [redacted] volunteered the opinion that [redacted] actually controls the policies of the Klan in Apopka and puts the final stamp of approval or disapproval on any of its actions.

He was questioned concerning certain individuals who have been determined to be connected with the Klan in and around Apopka. Included in this group were EARL J. BROOKLYN, WILLIAM H. BELVIN, JAMES B. JOHNSON, [redacted] stated he was not acquainted with any of these individuals. Concerning other individuals mentioned he stated he either did not know them or knew them only as persons living in Apopka and knew nothing about their activities with the exception of [redacted] whom he described as one of the "KKK gang". He also mentioned that [redacted] was another individual who associated with the persons he considered connected with the Klan in Apopka.

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MM 44-270

[redacted] explained he is not too well acquainted with the names of individuals in Apopka as he has been in Apopka only about five years. He stated he moved there from Miami about five years ago and set himself up in business.

In answer to the question as to whether he was related to [redacted] a Miami Klansman, [redacted] stated he knows no one by that name and has no relatives in Miami.

He stated he was not acquainted with the details of any atrocities that had occurred in and around Apopka but believed [redacted] who works at Plymouth in [redacted] groves and lives in Apopka on the main highway opposite the C V Ranch might be able to furnish information about the Klan. [redacted] has never been a Klansman but is cognizant of activities in and around the community.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] on February 5, 1952, at Pensacola, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] stated [redacted] was well acquainted with victims and might have information concerning instant case.

By letter dated March 7, 1952, the Mobile Office furnished the following information.

[redacted]
Florida, advised he had met HARRY T. MOORE at an NAACP conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, in about 1946 and had met him about every six months thereafter at conferences and conventions, and often stayed with him in the same room at hotels. He had met HARRIETT MOORE in Jacksonville, Florida, in December, 1951 when they planned to raise money for the defense of colored people in certain trials.

He stated MOORE stayed at his home when he came to Pensacola to raise funds for NAACP work about October, 1951, and at that time MOORE told him he was threatened for taking too much interest in the Groveland Rape Case and was afraid to travel in the daytime. MOORE did not tell him when, where or who threatened him nor how it was done. [redacted] added that MOORE also said he did not want to go back to Lake County to do any work but did not state that the threat came from anyone in Lake County.

[redacted] considered MOORE's closes friends to be [redacted] Tampa, Florida, and [redacted] Progressive Voters League, St. Petersburg, Florida. [redacted] stated MOORE had a very good reputation all over Florida, that he was not radical, and that he did not cross people. He knew of no dissension in the NAACP against MOORE except that at the Tampa convention in November, 1950, MOORE was criticized for not rendering a satisfactory annual financial report. He stated MOORE later presented a satisfactory report.

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knew of no enemies of HARRY T. or HARRIETT MOORE. He stated he believed their deaths were caused from their having taken too active a part in the Groveland case. He stated he knew MOORE as a fearless man and straight-forward speaker until he visited him in Pensacola in October, 1951, at which time he acted as though he were afraid to speak and told him he was afraid to travel in the daytime.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted]
[redacted] on March 19, 1952, at Leesburg, Florida.

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BASIS: [redacted] colored, acquaintance of
victim MOORE, interviewed to ascertain if he would
furnish any information relative instant investigation.

[redacted] Lake County Training School, advised he attended
the Bethune-Cookman School at Daytona Beach in the summer of 1951 with
victim MOORE, taking elementary education. He stated he and MOORE, as
well as one [redacted] who presently teaches science at the Campbell Street
School in Daytona Beach, had numerous conversations together relative the
Lake County case for which MOORE was apparently interested in raising money
for the defense of the subjects of that case. MOORE advised [redacted] he
was to hold a rally or meeting down south which [redacted] believed was to
be held at West Palm Beach. MOORE requested [redacted] to go with him; how-
ever, [redacted] advised he did not and MOORE suggested they hold a similar
rally at Leesburg in an effort to raise funds, whereupon [redacted] advised
he did not think the same advisable because of the strong feeling which still
existed in Lake County over the case. [redacted] suggested to MOORE that
possibly it would be more desirable to raise funds by other means, such as
ball games, to which MOORE agreed; however, these never materialized.

He stated that on one occasion when [redacted] was present MOORE
indicated there was at that time a big case he was working on; however,
[redacted] said MOORE furnished no details concerning the case or the names
of any parties involved but indicated it was north of Daytona Beach and
[redacted] had the impression the case had its origin at Madison, Florida.
He could not recall what gave him this impression nor does he recall MOORE
specifically mentioning Madison, Florida. He added that he knew MOORE did
go to Jacksonville, Florida, from Daytona Beach shortly thereafter but he
did not know the nature of the trip.

[redacted] contends he has not discussed the alleged case with
anyone subsequent to the conversation with MOORE nor had he heard that any-
one from Madison County had been in Mims inquiring as to the whereabouts
of MOORE.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [redacted] on March 14, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] of fertilizer crews, Winter Garden Citrus Growers Cooperative, interviewed concerning [redacted] of tractor drivers.

[redacted] advised he had been a member of the Winter Garden Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans. He stated he is not now a member and advised when he was a member he was not as active as he would have liked to be. He said any decent person should want to belong to the Klan if the Klan is operated properly and by its laws. He felt it is a good organization which collects money for the needy, sends flowers to the sick or deceased and gets out the vote in election time. [redacted] said that to his knowledge there is no man or group of men in the Winter Garden Klavern of violent nature. He knows of no one who would indulge in beatings or killings. However, he did say he was not familiar with every member and admitted there could be some undesirables in the organization. He stated it was the duty of the Klokann Committee to screen members before they are admitted and get rid of undesirable people and he assumed while he was an active member the committee was carrying out its duties and therefore undesirables would be at a minimum.

He relied on his oath to the Klan and stated he was willing to be of assistance to the Bureau but did not wish to violate his Klan oath by naming Klan members. However, he stated if he thought any member of the Klan were connected with instant bombing he would not hesitate to turn him over to the law.

When asked if he knew HARRY MOORE, [redacted] said he did, that MOORE was a grove-tender for the Winter Garden Citrus Growers Cooperative; when advised that HARRY T. MOORE was the victim of instant bombing [redacted] appeared surprised and stated he had never heard of any other HARRY MOORE except the one who worked for his company. He stated he never heard of any

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conferences or discussions on the NAACP or of HARRY T. MOORE. He advised that if someone had mentioned HARRY MOORE at all he would have immediately thought of the grove-tender and not of the victim.

[redacted] denied ever seeing any floor plans or maps displayed at any meetings he had attended and had never heard any fellow members mention same.

He advised he knew EARL BROOKLYN only by sight. He believes that BROOKLYN works for some concrete company around Orlando. He knows [redacted] but has no information concerning him. He did not know TILLMAN BELVIN. He stated he had seen J. B. JOHNSON once or twice in Winter Garden selling appliances. He advised that [redacted] is a member of his fertilizing crew and is a good worker who never to [redacted] knowledge has been in any trouble except one time when he was arrested for driving a truck without a license. He knew of no activities in which [redacted] was involved that were outside the law. [redacted] stated he has known [redacted] [redacted] for twentyfive years and has been a close friend and associate for the past fifteen years. He stated [redacted] enjoys a very good reputation, is a church-going man and is not known to be a violent person. In fact, he is a reliable fellow who goes out of his way to help the needy people in and around Winter Garden and is quick to offer his services as a mechanic or carpenter to anyone who may need them. He advised he has never heard anything derogatory about [redacted] and considers him to be a first class citizen.

[redacted] advised he would not condone any type of brutality or activity outside the law and felt the perpetrators of instant bombing should be brought to justice, regardless of their affiliation with any organization including the Klan. He stated he would furnish to the FBI any information coming to his attention regarding this case.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 13, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: Dr. B. H. LAWSON interviewed for any information he may have concerning terrorist activities in the Winter Garden area.

Dr. B. H. LAWSON stated he is not and has never been a member of any Klan, either in Winter Garden or elsewhere. He stated he has been a practicing physician in the city of Winter Garden for more than twentyfive years. During that time he has never knowingly been acquainted with any Klansman although he readily admitted persons known to him may be Klansmen.

He recalled an incident about fifteen years ago when a colored man was severely beaten and subsequently treated by him. He stated he was unable to recall at this time the man's name and could not recall any of the circumstances surrounding the beating. At the time he treated the man he was not aware that he had been beaten, thinking he might have been involved in a street brawl and so received his injuries. He recalled reading in the newspaper several days later that this individual had been beaten by Klan members. His knowledge of this incident is very sketchy and he has no record of it.

Dr. LAWSON stated he was unable to furnish any additional information of pertinence to instant investigation and stated he had heard no talk concerning the bombing of MOORE's house other than that which appeared in the press.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [REDACTED] on March 13, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: Attempt to locate and interview [REDACTED] [REDACTED] reported to be [REDACTED] and close friend of [REDACTED] for his knowledge of terrorist activities in and around the Winter Garden-Orlando area.

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] is now working on a government project around Aiken, South Carolina. His present address is [REDACTED] Georgia.

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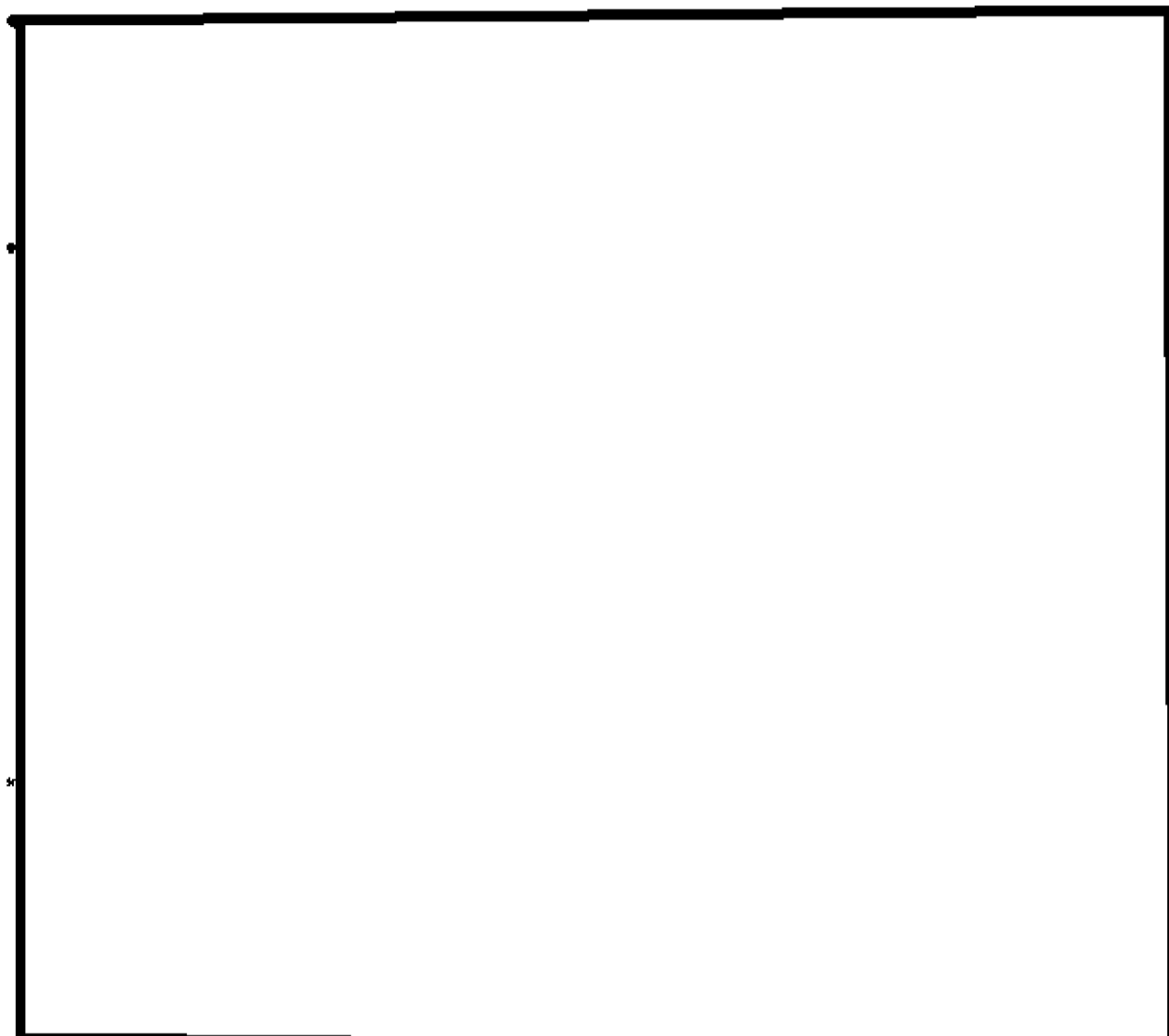
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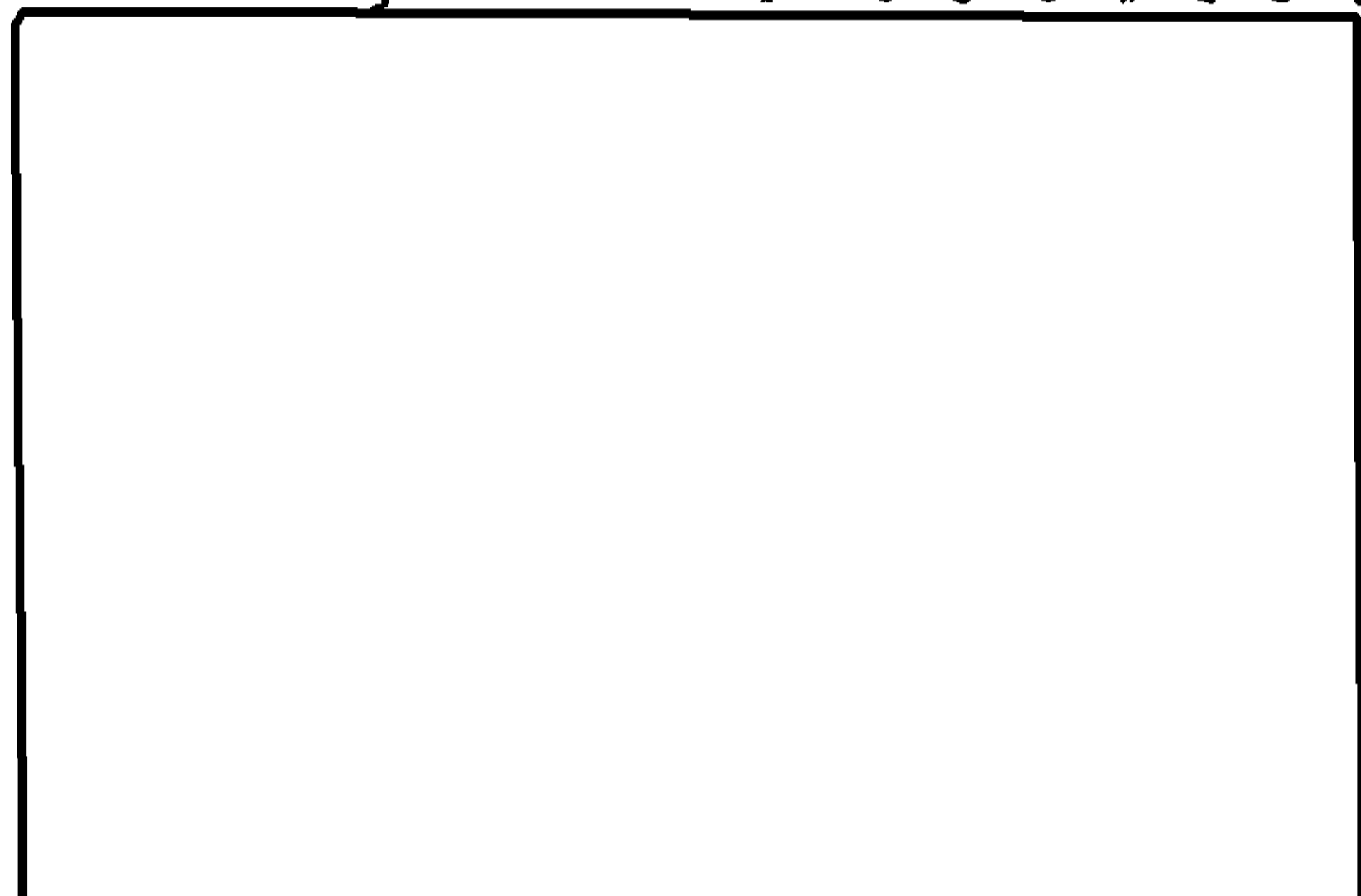
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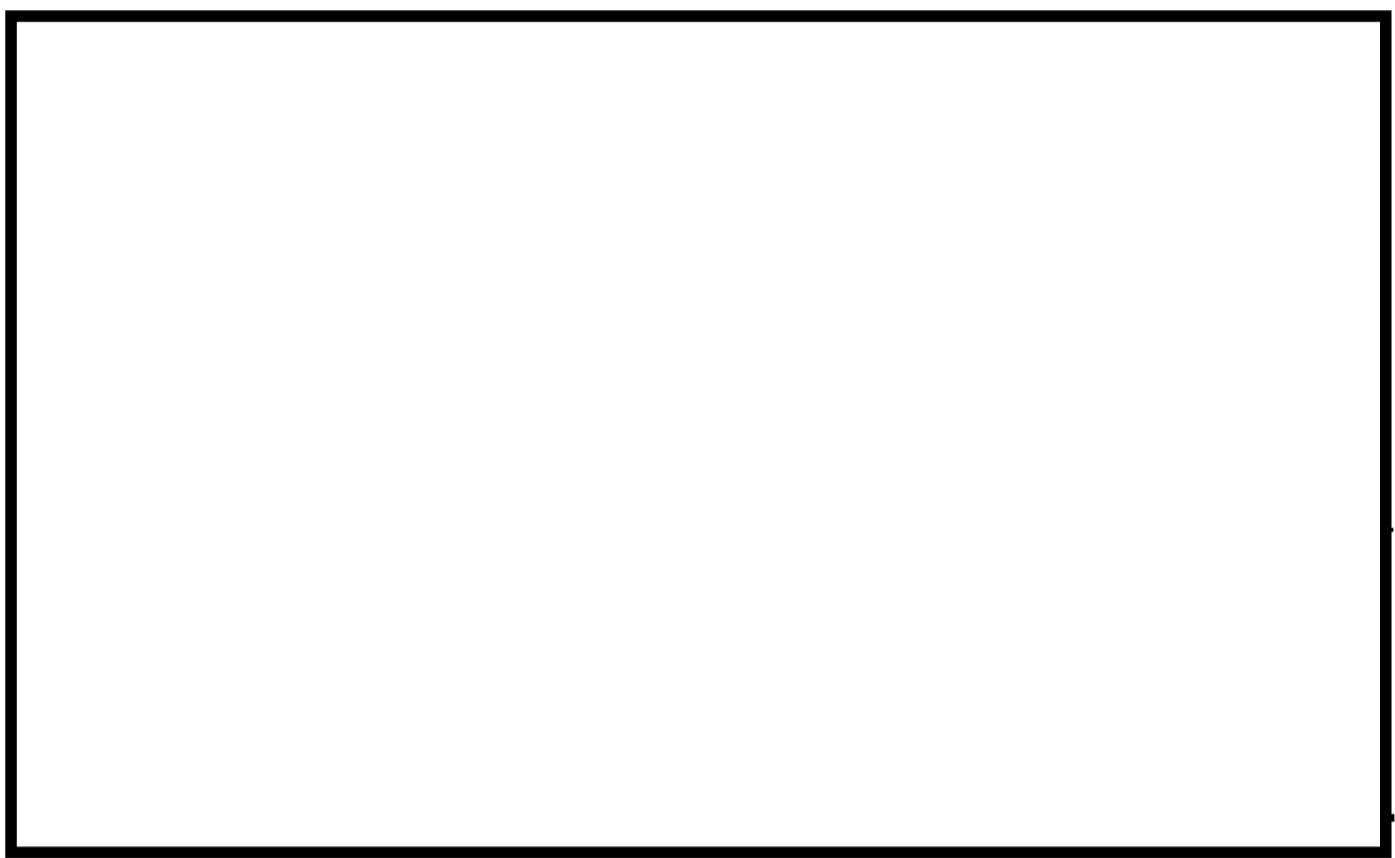
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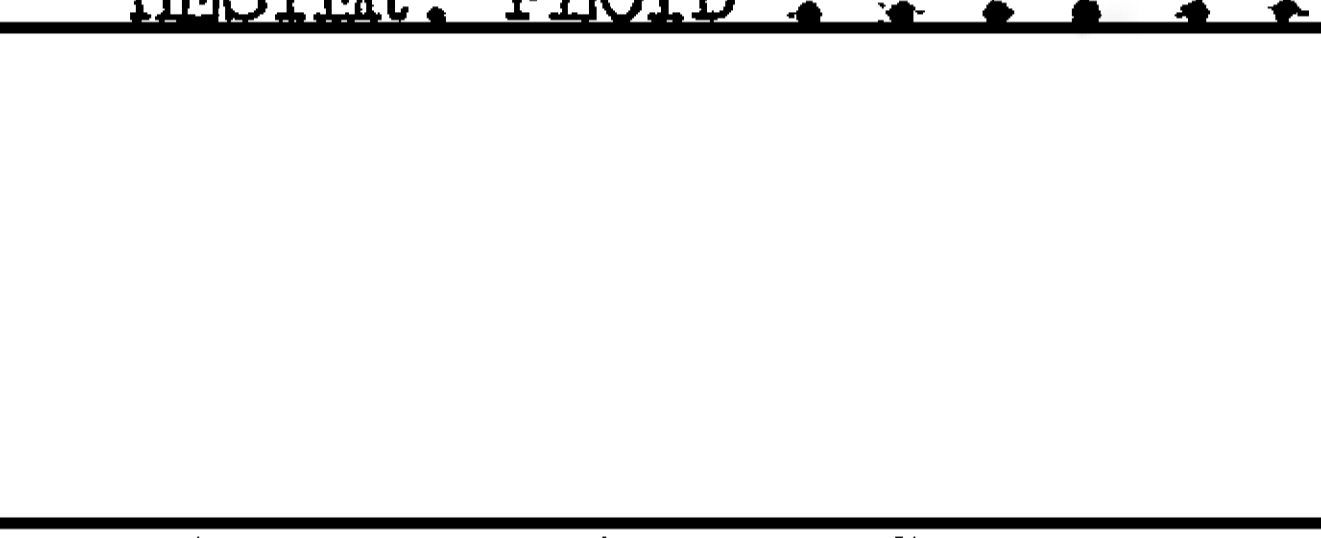
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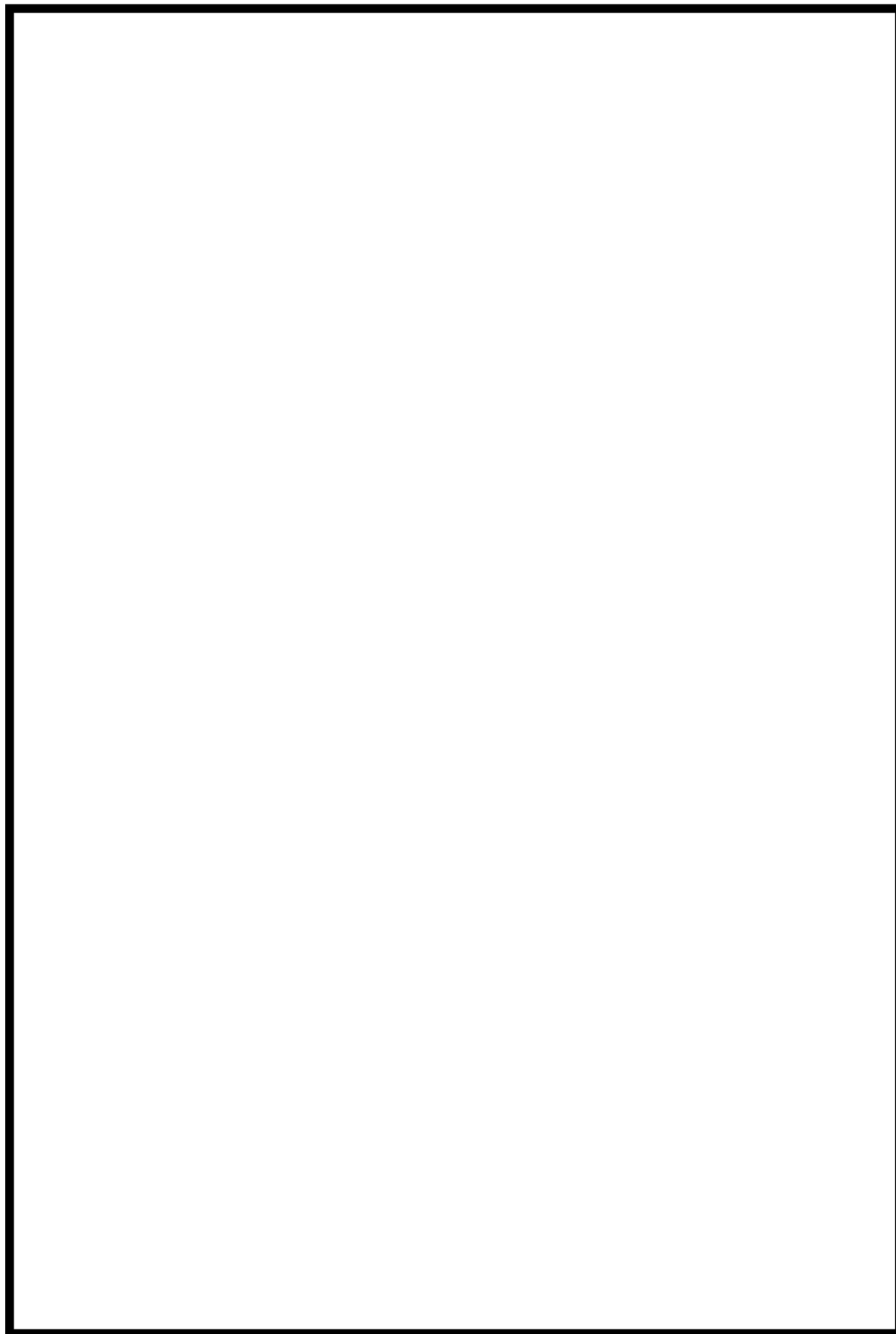
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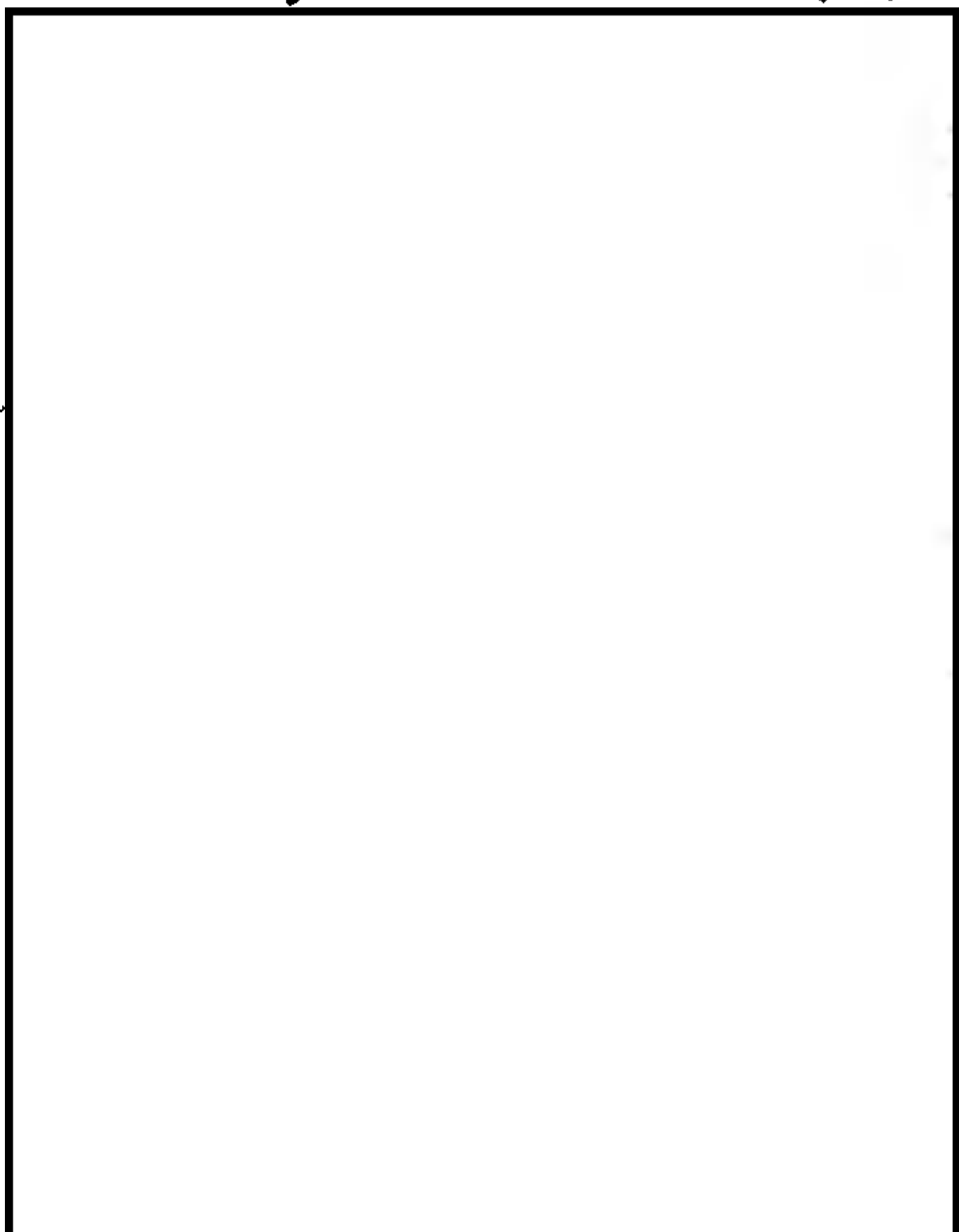


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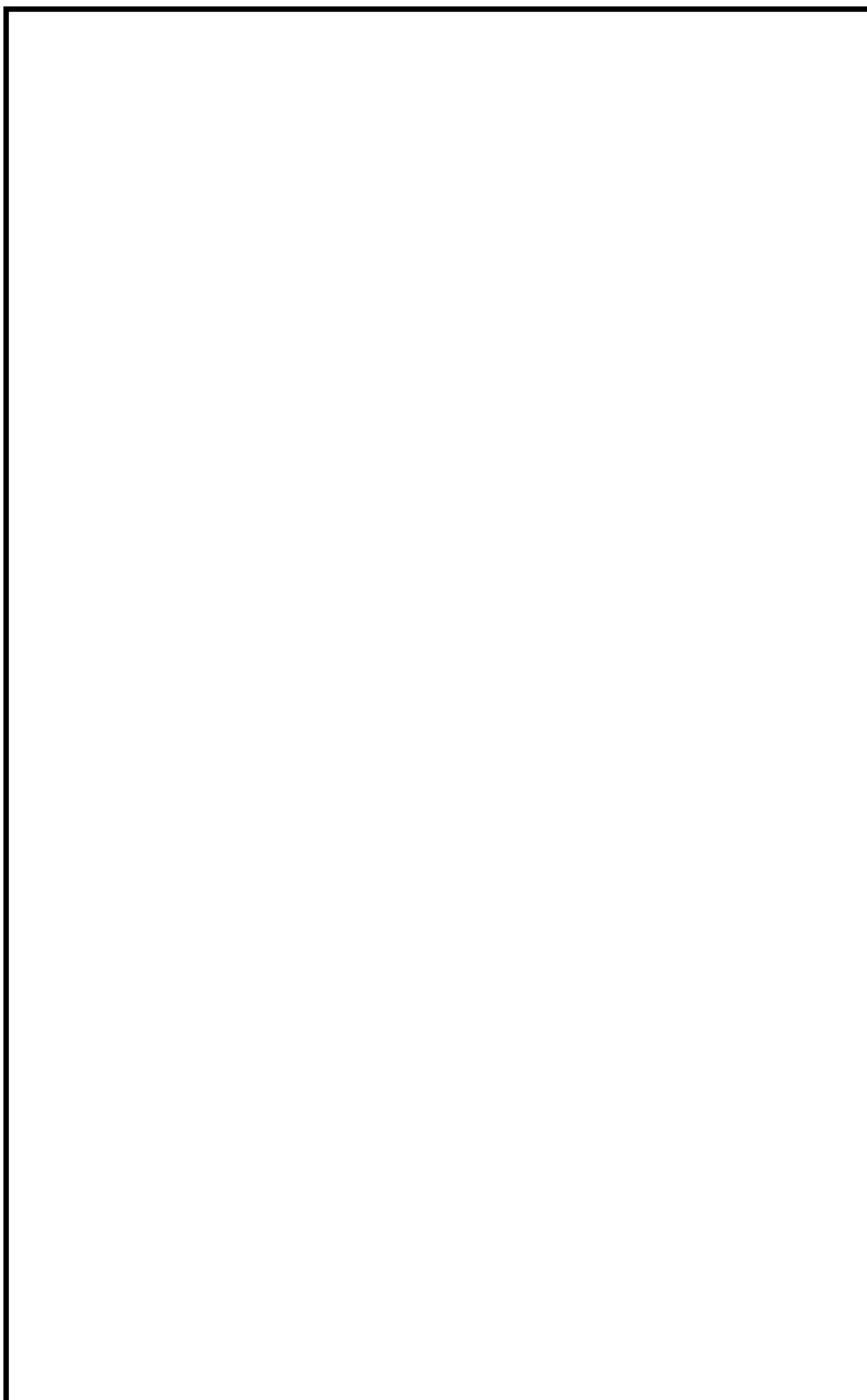
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[Redacted]

WELCH, WILLIE

[Redacted]

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

T-1 is

[redacted]
[redacted] Apopka, Florida.

T-2 is
Florida.

[redacted]

U. S. Post Office, Winter Garden,

T-3 is

[redacted] Winter Garden, Florida.

T-4 is
Garden, Florida.

[redacted]

U. S. Post Office, Winter

T-5 is
who requested that his name remain confidential.

[redacted]

Winter Park, Florida,

T-6 is
[redacted] Winter Park, Florida [redacted]
[redacted] who was interviewed at the recommendation
of [redacted] and requested that his identity be kept confidential.

[redacted]

Winter Park, Florida

T-7 is
informant of the Mobile Office, who requested that his identity be kept
confidential.

[redacted]

an

T-8 is
who requested that his identity remain confidential.

[redacted]

Cocoa, Florida,

T-9 is [redacted] report dated February 12, 1952.

One copy of this report is designated for the New York Office for
information inasmuch as that Office is maintaining liaison with the National
Headquarters of the NAACP in New York City.

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LEADS

SAVANNAH OFFICE

AT AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Will interview [redacted] close friend of [redacted] who was beaten by unknown individuals on April 29, 1950, for his knowledge of the beating of [redacted] and of other terrorist and Klan activities in the Winter Garden, Florida, area. [redacted] has been reported as a former Klansman in the Winter Garden area.

MIAMI OFFICE

AT APOPKA, FLORIDA

Will interview [redacted] who resides on the Orlando-Apopka Highway opposite the C V Ranch and works at Plymouth in the [redacted] groves for any information he may have regarding Klan activities in and around Apopka. It is noted he is not alleged to be a Klansman but to be cognizant of community affairs.

AT DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

Will interview [redacted] at Campbell Street High School, in reference to the alleged conversation with MOORE and [redacted] at the Bethune-Cookman College in the summer of 1951, at which time MOORE indicated he was working on a big case north of there. [redacted] had the impression the case had its origin in Madison, Florida; however, he does not know the reason he gained such an impression.)

Will interview [redacted]

[redacted]
inasmuch as automobiles bearing licenses issued to them were observed at the MOORE funeral.

Will ascertain the identity of the individual who rented a car bearing license number 8E-25, Florida 1951, from the Second Avenue Cab Company on January 1, 1952, inasmuch as that car was observed at victim's funeral, and set out a lead to have that individual interviewed.

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AT DE LAND, FLORIDA

Will locate and interview [redacted] DeLand colored school [redacted], 219 East Church Street, for information concerning the conversation he had with victim's daughter and [redacted] at Bethune-Cookman College.

AT LAKE LAND, FLORIDA

Will interview [redacted] suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN, for any information she may have regarding his Klan activities and possible implication in instant matter.

AT MARTIN, FLORIDA

Will interview [redacted] regarding the alleged threat to [redacted] by seven white men in Martin in connection with a letter written by [redacted] Marion Hardware Company. Will question him regarding his knowledge of Klan activities in and around Martin.

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

Will determine the identity of the owners of license numbers [redacted] all 1951 Florida. These automobiles were seen at the funeral of HARRY T. MOORE.

AT NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA

Will interview [redacted] whose 1950 Chevrolet, 1951 Florida tag [redacted] was observed at victim's funeral.

AT OCOEE, FLORIDA

Will interview [redacted] of suspect EARL BROOKLYN, as well as [redacted] of BROOKLYN, who is reported to be residing with the [redacted] regarding BROOKLYN's Klan activities.

Will interview [redacted] of suspect BROOKLYN, for any information she may have regarding his Klan activities and possible implication in instant matter.

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Will interview [redacted] of suspect BROOKLYN, for any information she may have regarding his Klan activities and possible implication in instant matter.

AT ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Will exhibit photograph of [redacted] to Klan informants and question them as to whether or not [redacted] has ever been in the Orlando area, particularly in 1951.

Will interview [redacted] of the Super Concrete Company, fellow employee of BROOKLYN, allegedly approached by BROOKLYN to join the Klan for any information he may have regarding BROOKLYN's character and his knowledge of Klan activities with particular emphasis on its connection with instant case.

Will reinterview JOE N. COX for information in his possession concerning the Klan membership of the Orlando Association of Georgia Klans. He was reportedly secretary as recently as one year ago and a present member.

AT SEBRING, FLORIDA

Will interview LUTHER COLEMAN, 300 Lemon Street, concerning the beating he received from a group of white men outside the bank at Winter Garden, Florida, on February 6, 1951.

AT STUART, FLORIDA

Will interview [redacted] who was reportedly beaten by the Klan at Winter Garden, for her knowledge of the beating and the present whereabouts of [redacted]

AT TAMPA, FLORIDA

Will interview [redacted] reported by [redacted] of Pensacola to be president of the State NAACP, and a very close friend of MOORE, for any knowledge he may have regarding instant case and any threats made against MOORE. [redacted] full name and address may be ascertained through [redacted] of the Florida Convention, NAACP.

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AT TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA

Will interview [redacted] to determine any information in his possession concerning instant bombing. Ascertain his whereabouts and those of [redacted] on December 25, 1952.

AT WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA

Will reinterview Chief of Police MAYNARD MANN for any information he may have regarding the beatings of LUTHER COLEMAN, reason for the attack and the persons responsible.

Will interview [redacted] who reportedly treated LUTHER COLEMAN immediately after his beating.

Will interview [redacted] who rooms over the Robinson's Big Shop concerning the LUTHER COLEMAN incident and the inquiry allegedly made by some white men concerning COLEMAN.

Will interview [redacted] at the Lake View High School, and his wife concerning the COLEMAN beating to which they were reportedly witnesses.

Will interview [redacted] concerning the present whereabouts of [redacted] and her present soldier husband and set out appropriate lead to have her interviewed concerning the beating she received at the hands of Klansmen in 1944.

REFERENCE:

Report of SA [redacted] Miami, 3-11-52.
Numerous telephone calls from the Bureau to Miami and numerous teletypes and letters between Miami and the Bureau as well as Miami and auxiliary offices.